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BEING A NARRATIVE OF AN EXPEDITION TO THE CAPITAL OF NEW-GRENADA, AND A RESIDENCE THERE OF ELEVEN MONTHS.

BY JOHN STEUART.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR
BY HARPER & BROTHERS, 82 CLIFF-STREET.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages are not intended to afford either a geographical or scientific description of the places therein mentioned, as neither my ability nor opportunities qualified me to enter upon a field which the public are already aware has been so ably and thoroughly investigated.

The principal object of this work is to describe "Men and Things" in New-Grenada as the writer in reality found them to be then existing; and, if possible, to afford the man of business, as well as travellers generally, some more correct information on many points of interest to them than myself had been able to glean from the pages of former works on the subject. At all events, whatever defects may become apparent in the perusal of this volume, the writer stands fearlessly pledged to the cause of truth, as well as to that spirit of free inquiry of the age which will rest satisfied with nothing less than the knowledge of stubborn and unclouded facts.

THE AUTHOR.

New-York, November, 1838.

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BOGOTÁ.

CHAPTER I.

Extravagant Ideas prevalent regarding South America.—Qualities requisite in a Writer of Travels.—Vessel detained on Suspicion of being destined for Texas.—Departure from New-York.—Make the Mona Passage.—Difficulty experienced in entering the Harbour.—Santa Marta.—State of Trade there.—Spanish Cookery.—Singular Apathy of the Natives.—Leave Santa Marta.—Troubles of the Inland Navigation.—Lake of the Cienaga. —River Magdalena. — Arrive at Barranquilla. — Mr. Glen.—Christmas Festivities.

My mind had long been turned towards South America, that "El Dorado" of the great Western Hemisphere, where mountains teemed with every precious ore and stone under the canopy of heaven; where an eternal spring of deepest verdure wafted on every breeze a thousand delicious odours to the senses, from flowers and shrubs of the most exquisite colouring and beauty; and where, in short, wealth was to be obtained for the bare trouble of going thither in pursuit of it; so, at least, would any one have inferred from the current rumours and accounts of the day, whether as found in the columns of a newspaper, or picked up from the notes and letters of some enthusiastic traveller, upon whose opinion it might have been perfectly safe to rely for the true colour of a southern maiden's eye, the merits of a convivial party, or the description of the Señor Someone's great estate, &c., but cer-

tainly not for a knowledge of the springs which set in motion the business of a whole people; the real state of trade and commerce; the bearings of the different classes of society one upon the other, and their particular dispositions, their loves, their hates, their hopes, their fears. To get at a tithe of all these, we must step behind the curtain; must visit the cottage as well as the palace; must have business dealings with the people as well as letters of mere introduction to the first in the land; and, upon all and every occasion, must never allow prejudice, or imperfect examination and information to lead us, on the one hand, into the mazes of an illiberal and bitter spirit, nor yet, on the other, into that set style of sycophantic representation which is so often adopted by the mere traveller of pleasure, or those wily diplomatic agents who have a purpose of their own to serve in offering up the incense of flattery even at the feet of the basest and vilest of national delinquencies.

Having entered into a copartnership with a celebrated manufacturing house in New-York, I took passage in the fine new brig Marcellino, Captain Chapman (it being her first voyage), having with me a company of nine operatives, men and women, and a son of an esteemed friend in Connecticut to act as my assistant. In addition to a heavy stock of raw materials for the factory intended to be established in Bogotá, I carried out also an assortment of merchandise suited to that market.

On the morning of the 19th Nov., 1835, we were all on board, the parting of our friends over, and the vessel towed into the stream on the North River side, where, dropping anchor, we awaited but the dispersing of a thick fog to go to sea.

Fatigued with the various duties attendant upon shipping, &c., I was about to turn into my berth at 8 o'clock in the evening, when, behold, I received

a summons from the captain to go ashore with him, and endeavour to find the collector of the customs, even at so unseasonable an hour! It seemed that our ship was in the hands of a revenue officer until farther orders from the collector should be received; but the why and wherefore, the officer either would not or could not tell. Arrived in the city, through mist and rain, we learned that the collector had gone to Washington; and his deputy being nowhere to be found, we were forced to return on board, at a late hour of the night, as wise as before we left. Next day the bubble burst! We had been taken for an expedition to Texas, going to aid the revolutionists there; and as President Jackson had issued orders to seize all men and arms destined for such a cause, it being generally known that a vessel was then on the eve of sailing from New-York for the purpose for which we were suspected, we were thought to be the one in question. Why, I could not say. As certainly seven men and four poor women, with the crew necessary to navigate the brig, having only two dismounted four-pounders in the hold, was not very likely to have added much strength to the Texians, even had such been our destination. It occupied us all of the 20th in getting clear of the customs; this was finally accomplished only by a threat of immediate prosecution on the part of the owners of the vessel, upon which the sapient attorney for the government released us. But the cream of the matter was, that while they were thus most foolishly impeding us in our course, the real "Simon Pure" made her escape in the shape of a neat clipper-built schooner, with something more than eleven passengers too. At twelve o'clock at night we set sail, the revenue cutter very politely gallanting us outside the Hook light.

Up to the 25th we had fine winds, after which, being in the calm latitudes, we scarcely moved out

of our track for three days. What sweet, soft airs are here! How delicately blended are the sky's glowing tints! One drinks in, as it were, the balmy zephyrs which scarcely fan the cheek, while the firmament at night is as transparent and clear as in the depth of a northern winter. During the whole day and night one scarcely feels inclined to leave the deck. 28th. The wind freshened, but ahead, squally at times, with heavy showers. This continued with trifling variation until the 2d December, when the breeze slackened, but still blew ahead. Our vessel proved an easy, dry sailer, and worked admirably under her experienced master's hand. Again, until the 7th, were we baffled continually with head winds and all manner of squalls; but on that morning it came round fair, though but light. At night the wind increased, and at eleven o'clock we made Porto Rico. We were close in by the land before we discovered it, the night being very hazy; indeed, we could have thrown a stone on shore. At seven, on the morning of the 8th, we were entering the Mona Passage and dashing over the Caribbean Sea. We saw the mainland at one o'clock of the 10th, being the stupendous snowy mountains of the ridge of Andes called La Nevada de Santa Marta, the highest peak being 16,419 feet above the level of the sea. At first the senses will scarcely credit that the long undulating line of blue is aught else than misty condensations. The captain called my attention to them first, but at that time their extreme peaks were not visible. A mass of dense white clouds spread along from the bottom to the summit, unbroken save by one long line or belt, which, a little above midway, showed the dark mounds within; and it was only by watching intently the lifting away of their fleecy covering that amazement and admiration at such gigantic realities take full possession of the soul. We were then

about forty miles from land. At night we beat off, as it blew very fresh, and Santa Marta is not a harbour to make in the night. At daylight of the 11th we closed in with the shore, which, to the windward of Santa Marta, presents a most barren and rugged appearance. The earth is heaped up into mounds and pinnacles, commencing at the very water's edge, and ascending like stairs, ridge upon ridge, with many singular inlets on the coast, which, in general, do not run very far into the land. Upon the whole, this section of the coast presents the most gloomy and unsocial appearance one can possibly imagine; stunted trees, the prickly pear (which attains here a great height and thickness), being the only prominent features of the soil, while all else is one bleak succession of rugged rock and a species of brown-coloured moss. In coasting along nothing is to be seen of the town until the vessel's prow is turned directly into the narrow passage formed by the island of the Moro and Needle Point; a passage scarcely twice the width of a common merchantman; and which, with the wind at certain points, must be both of difficult and dangerous navigation. This Moro Island is a huge perpendicular rock, completely isolated. There is another channel to leeward of this rock, and about equal width with the other. On the top is to be seen a castle, at present wholly dilapidated, but which might easily be made perfectly impregnable, and prove an excellent defence to the town.

At the time we entered the harbour the wind was blowing strong from the northeast, and we had much trouble in beating up into the anchorage ground, in the middle of this little circular bay. We dropped anchor at nine A. M., received the custom-house officers on board, and then got out a kedge to warp up closer in to the shore; but tremendous gusts of wind, which came sweeping down through a range of the

mountains in rear of the town, prevented our purpose by driving us out to sea again, in spite of our anchors. The longboat, which had just got alongside from the shore with fresh water, was sunk, and we were obliged to slip the kedge-warp. We narrowly escaped the Needle Point; and, when once fairly out to sea, we tacked again for the harbour, but for a long time were unsuccessful in entering, owing to these dreadful gusts of wind, which are upon you in a moment, and then settle down again into a calm so perfect as scarcely to leave headway enough for the vessel, with her shortened sail, to stem the sea. Just as we were entering the Moro Passage for the second time, I perceived that the tiller-rope was stranded; preventer-ropes were instantly affixed, and, with the aid of the passengers, we cleared the passage, and dropped both anchors closer in to the land than before. Through the whole night it blew a perfect gale, but our anchors held: next morning we carried kedges ashore, and moored both bow and stern. Even while close in with the shore, vessels are not always safe from these dreadful squalls. There are neither posts nor any other conveniences by which to moor, and but one wharf, which is used alternately by vessels loading and unloading. We found the schooner Purdy but just arrived, although she sailed one week before us from New-York. Besides her there were in harbour five small Columbian coasting craft, and an English and an Italian brig.

The appearance of the town of Santa Marta from the harbour is wretched indeed to one accustomed to North American or European seaports. The houses are low, and blackened by the sun's rays, while a small dilapidated battery has been reared on the beach, and directly in front of the town, whose effect is no way calculated to lessen the wretched appearance of the houses.

There are some exceptions, however; for instance, the Cathedral, the Government House, and the private dwellings of Mr. Fairbanks, a native of Boston, and of Señor Mier, a Spanish merchant, to whom I went consigned.

Sunday, the 13th, I went on shore to deliver my letters of introduction, &c., to Mr. Mier. The rainy season, they told us, had just passed, and we found the weather excessively hot, and were much annoyed by a species of fine white sand, which, both by its reflection and by being driven about by the wind, injures the eyes very much. We visited the market, which is held in a little square in the heart of the town. We found excellent fish of three or four kinds; beef at six and a quarter cents per pound; mutton, pork, and goat flesh at proportionate prices; the jerked beef we looked at with aversion; I never could get reconciled to it: as they never salt any meats in this country, this kind of beef is laid in by the boats for the Magdalena voyages. Yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, &c., are both plentiful and cheap; eggs eight for twelve and a half cents. The venders are mostly women, who sit upon the ground à la Turque, and sell out their wares with no small accompaniment of chattering.

14th. As these people still keep up the old foolish custom which prevails in continental Europe, of giving and requiring passports, I mustered my people and marched off with them to the governor's hall. He was himself absent, having gone up the river; but his deputy received us in a wretched-looking room, where two clerks sat writing. The coolness with which we were dismissed agreed but little with that kind of cant made use of by their own government organs, which declare it to be their supreme desire that foreigners professing the arts, sciences, and mechanics, should come among them, and be received with open arms on all sides.

I would here remark, that strangers having business to transact in this place should be at much pains to get through with it as early in the morning as possible, in order to avoid the heat at midday, which, even to a North American, is very oppressive, the thermometer standing 92° at noon on this day.

Santa Marta is said by some to contain eight thousand inhabitants, and by others ten thousand, but I cannot think the number exceeds six thousand at most; for it must be remembered that all the buildings, with but very few exceptions, are of one story only, and even that of but very moderate dimensions; therefore, a place of even six thousand inhabitants must necessarily cover a great space of ground. . Very little attention is paid throughout the whole of New-Grenada to a correct census. Hardly a sixteenth part of this population is of pure white blood; a third are Creoles and mulattoes, and the rest blacks and Indians. There were but seven foreign residents when we were there, only two of whom were of any consequence; the one an Englishman, the other an American. The American consul is a Frenchman, and one who takes but little interest in the welfare of the States; nor can it ever be otherwise when foreigners hold those offices abroad which should alone belong to native citizens of the country they are intended to represent. In commercial affairs, the French interest prevails here, owing to the great influence of Señor Mier, who imports largely from that country, and who bears unlimited rule in the place. The English have no consul here, although, at times, it is a serious want. The trade of the place is a mere nothing, there being only a few retail dry-goods shops; but considerable freight is had here from the interior, such as tobacco, hides, &c., the land-carriage being thus avoided between Barranca and Carthagena, which, in the rainy season, frequently proves

destructive to goods and produce, and is always tedious.* Many goods are also forwarded from this up the river; still, its vicinity to Carthagena must for ever keep it in the back-ground; and were there but a good railroad running between that city and the River Magdalena, the business of Santa Marta would be entirely closed up, and an enormous decrease of property and population in the place would be the consequence.

As to their public buildings, the Cathedral is the best, but even this is a very plain one indeed; the interior is shabby enough, the great altar being mere tinsel-work, and its whole appearance that of a puppet-show on a holyday. The earthquake in 1827 destroyed many buildings, the ruins of which are still scattered around, while huge crevices and rents are plainly discernible in the walls of many of the houses now standing. The small semi-circular plain, moreover, on which the town stands, must have once belonged to the sea. This is evident from the peculiar shelving of the ground where it takes its rise from the beach, and which may yet return to it again in some future convulsion of nature. The mountains directly in rear of the town are finely wooded, presenting quite a strong contrast to the part of the coast we first made. About half a mile below the town, a delightful river of the purest water flows into the bay, which can be approached by keeping the beach, or by an avenue cut through lime, guava, citron, and other trees, which also line the whole of its banks. In the cool of the morning this is a most delightful walk, and the bathing in the river is very refreshing. All the inhabitants bathe more or less, either in the river or sea, and

* At present, however, there is a decided advantage in entering goods here instead of at Carthagena, solely on account of the custom-house management; the delay and trouble not being the half that it is in the latter place.

about the docks a number of boys are constantly in the water, and seem to be quite as much in their proper element as the fish themselves.

The place is said to be very healthy; but much fever and ague prevails about the close of the rainy season, and the sallow complexions of the few whites do not speak much for its boasted salubrity; while the wretched poverty and filthy domicils of the poor cannot but be productive of disease. In Santa Marta, one is not annoyed by moschetoes, as those little plagues are scarcely known there, and the delightful breezes which spring up every night render the hours for repose very agreeable. The children of both sexes among the poor, as in all the hotter districts of New-Grenada, live almost entirely in a state of nudity. As there was not a single inn or hotel in the place, Mr. Mier procured us a house, and supplied us with a cook from his own kitchen; these two things were all we needed, as we had brought with us not only our own beds and bedding, but also provisions of every description. Here let me exclaim, preserve me from Spanish cookery! it is just spoiling good provisions. Chocolate is the only dish they can make in the smallest degree palatable; in all others they use so much garlic, cummin seed, and red sort of colouring, that one would need to be wellnigh starved in order to be able to partake of their dishes. The water used for drinking is kept cool in large red earthen jars called tenejas, by which means one can always enjoy, at any hour, the luxury of a glass of cool and transparent water. The houses here are much infested with a small red ant, called comejen, which is extremely annoying, as it gets into everything. Glazed windows are not to be seen; but wooden or iron bars supply their place, imparting a most prison-like appearance. The streets are made extremely narrow, in order to exclude, as much as

possible, the ardent rays of the sun. The few troops stationed here are mostly made up of negroes and Indians, with white officers. They are a most awkward set of men. The uniform of the privates is of coarse white linen, which, not being changed too often, causes them frequently to present a most filthy appearance. Their muskets, also, are kept in a wretched condition, and, altogether, they are the worst-looking troops I ever saw. A sentinel on duty, even before the governor's house, lounges about, with his musket placed in any position which best suits himself. I have often thought what must be the feelings of a military man while looking upon such total perversion of all rule, when even a civilian could not brook it with patience. There is no other mode of conveyance for passengers going from one part of the town to another than the same carts which carry merchandise to and from the shipping; and nothing amused us more than hearing these cartmen cry out, on seeing some of us going on shore, "Coche! coche! señores!" A carriage, gentlemen.

15th. We commenced the discharging of our cargo; that is, that part of it which belonged to myself. The vessel then proceeded to Carthagena with the balance. The next day we passed all our private baggage, with but little difficulty, through the personal assistance of Mr. Mier.

18th. By this time we had only got our river stores passed the customs; so tedious is the method of doing business among these people. Whoever wishes to have any dealings with the South American States, must lay in previously a large stock of patience, to serve him on all and every occasion, else will he be made, by means of fretting and fuming, joined to the influence of a burning sun, a perfect anatomy ere he is well aware of it. It seems to afford pleasure, I have often thought, to these peo-

ple, to witness an American or Englishman dancing about with sheer impatience, exposed to the hot sunshine, and venting his wrath at the delays which, day after day, he sees not the least probability of getting rid of. The lazy, Spanish shrug of the shoulders, the perfectly care-me-nothing expression of the countenance, and the thousandth time reiterated assurance that "Mañana, ó pasa mañana" (tomorrow, or the day after), all will be right, is the only consolation afforded.

Finding that the bulk of my goods might not be cleared in some weeks to come, I concluded to proceed on the voyage, with my people, as far as Barranquilla, on the river, and there to procure a good boat, and endeavour, by travelling as lightly loaded as possible, to reach Bogotá some time previous to the goods, in order to have all things ready for commencing business operations. But here I did wrong, as the sequel will show. There is no plan so sure as that of travelling in the same boat with your merchandise. I wrote also to Bogotá, enclosing two letters of introduction, one to the United States' minister there, and the other to a Sr. Raymundo Santa Maria, a brother-in-law of Mr. Mier, requesting these gentlemen to be good enough to look out for a house for me. So at three o'clock in the afternoon we embarked, in a small bonga belonging to Mr. Mier, for Barranquilla; at the same time, the good brig Marcellino got under weigh for Carthagena.

One great cause of the constant vexation and irritation of feeling which travellers to this country, especially business men, are sure to experience, either more or less, on account of the delays, bad accommodations, &c., at every town on their journey, is this: they fancy, on arriving, that they are about to set foot upon a shore which has witnessed the glorious light of the nineteenth century breaking in upon the arts and sciences, and upon all the countless com-

forts and advantages which the age has brought to a large portion of Europe, as well as to the United States. But they discover their mistake, as every traveller has who ever visited the country. Remarks upon the causes of their being so very much in the back-ground will be found in the closing chapter of this work.

I have said that we embarked in a small bonga for Barranquilla; this name belongs to a boat of some forty feet in length and seven in width. It is the most awkward attempt at naval architecture conceivable; being a keelboat, with square stern, but tottles terribly in the water. It is decked, having a small cabin aft, and carries an awkward sort of sail. It can also be poled along like a champan, and, on this account, the sides above the deck are not more than one foot high. As one of these was the very best conveyance to be had, we huddled into it as well as we could; but I never will forget the looks of horror cast upon it by the four poor women when they first saw this miserable vessel; and I had no little trouble in reconciling them to it. The provisions and most of the baggage were stowed away in the hold; the cabin looked so dirty that none descended into it, but crowded round the hatchway, while the four black wretches termed bogas (river-labourers) hoisted their strip of black canvass, and we started off, like a Dutch yawl, keel uppermost. As the mouth of the Cienaga, or Salt Lake, lies to the leeward of Santa Marta, we coasted along, with but a very slight breeze, until ten o'clock at night, when we came to anchor a short distance from the shore, the sea being perfectly still. In rough weather, I should not think that these cockle-boats could venture out at all. During this time we had made only about five leagues! Not having room sufficient to put up our cott-beds, we all slept on board of this wretched boat as we best could; some in the hold,

where they encountered the usual tenants of these craft, lizards, cockroaches, fleas, ants, moschetoes, &c.; others lay down on the deck upon mattresses, which, in this fine climate, is by far the best plan. These boats are usually smoked before being used; but, as we were in a hurry to leave, so as, if possible, to get away from Barranquilla before the great Christmas holydays should commence, it had been omitted. At daylight next morning, there being no wind, the bogas poled the boat along. This pole is a straight stick of considerable thickness, with a short crotch driven into one end, in order to keep it from sinking too far in the sand and mud; and the other end is applied to the breast. These bogas, who are so far sunk below the grade of common humanity as to be unworthy of the name, make a great noise when poling the boats; and the most obscene and blasphemous expressions are uttered at every step they take. This, with the indecent exposure of their persons, may altogether rank them among fiends incarnate. But, as yet, we had seen nothing of them, comparatively speaking.

The gaining of the entrance to the lake is frequently attended with much difficulty. The moving sand-bars, shifting their position, often change the channel, and have once or twice caused the mouth to be completely closed, when a fresh one opens up in another quarter. We saw some of the old entrances, which were now fully banked up and covered with vegetation. Entering the lake, we rounded back upon our course in order to stop at the small village of Salina, which, with another called Pueblo Viejo, is situated on a low, narrow neck or beach, which divides the lake from the sea; and here it was that we experienced the commencement of those troubles attendant upon the endeavour to keep the bogas to their duty, of which there is no getting rid until landed at Honda. It seems there

was no necessity for going out of our course to stop at this village. It was a mere plan of the bogas, who wished, under pretence of getting wood to cook with, to while away the day (Saturday), and then to lie by here all Sunday and get drunk. For once, however, we mastered them, by preparing to send back by land the American named Bishop, whom I had hired at Santa Marta to guide us up the river, to give information of our situation to Mr. Mier. This had the desired effect; for, after cooking and eating their breakfast, they started about two o'clock in the afternoon, growling like disappointed tigers. The place at which we stopped is a wretched little Indian village, where nothing can be procured save fish; there are salt-pans here, where a coarse salt is formed by the sun's exhalations. We dropped anchor late at night in the middle of the lake, that we might sleep undisturbed by moschetoes.

20th. Again under weigh at an early hour, poling along. Certainly nothing can much surpass the novel beauties of the scenery of this lake. The water transparent as the most polished mirror, and its surface undisturbed by a single ripple. Numerous mimic islands, or large clumps of dark green bushes, whose branches dip into the lake, are scattered in all directions. Large birds of the most spotless white plumage had settled on the boughs, at sight of which, joined to the perfect transparency of the sky above, and the sweet blandness of the morning air, filled as it was with delicious perfume, transported us back to the nursery tales of fairy-land. All that was wanting to complete the illusion was to be shut out from the presence of those foul-mouthed beasts, the bogas, who were the only mar to the enjoyment of so lovely a scene.

Even the very dullest of my companions could not but share the admiration, and feel with me the effect produced by the surrounding view, which was

thus so enchantingly presented. Far away in the back-ground toweringly rose, in amphitheatrical form, the snow-capped mountains of the Santa Marta range. To witness a sunrise on the Cienaga is certainly worth all the harassing fatigue one is obliged to endure in order to reach it. We entered to-day a second lake, smaller than the last. The entrance was through a long narrow passage, along which the boat was forced with the greatest difficulty over a species of water-lily, whose close-twisted and enduring roots formed such a dense resistance that at one time we had some fears of not being able to effect a passage; and it was only by stimulating the bogas with whiskey to fresh exertions, that they persevered and worked their way through. The toil was most excessive, and could only have been endured by such a race of mortals as these. On the shores of this lake are large beautiful trees, actually alive with red monkeys and iguanas, a most disgusting-looking animal of the lizard tribe. These red monkeys make a dreadful roaring, especially at daybreak; a multitude of them together send forth sounds bearing so strong a resemblance to the roar of the lion, that we took them for such until better informed. At night we anchored some distance from shore, and were perfectly free from moschetoes.

21st. At daylight we entered just such another tangled passage as that we passed yesterday. This fully merits the appellation which it bears, namely, that of "the Infernal Passage." The "patron" or skipper of the boat, however, did very wrong to attempt going through at this hour of the day. Had he but waited until the sun's power had been sufficiently felt, his prudence would have saved us from an hour and a half as severe purgatory as may well be conceived. For, at the very moment the prow of the boat struck the thick beds of lilies, the air

was perfectly filled with a species of small gnat, whose sting was instantaneous and excessively painful. There was no way of keeping them at bay. They attacked our very eyelids, lips, nostrils, and the interior of the ears! All the flapping of hands and handkerchiefs was entirely without avail against the countless legions of such bloodthirsty and tormenting animals. As a last resource, we were obliged to roll ourselves completely up in sheets; yet within these folds, friendly as they were, we wellnigh endured all the horrors of suffocation, not daring to leave even space sufficient for respiration; for, the very moment the smallest aperture was made in our wrapper, in poured a stream of these malignant little wretches. Never should I speak disparagingly of moschetoes again after this acquaintance with the gnats that infest the Cienagas of Santa Marta. However, it was some little relief to the torment we suffered just to cast an occasional glance upon the whole company, thus busily employed; the quickness of their motions, their extravagant antics, their faces swollen with rage and bites, all joined to present a picture in which the painful and ridiculous were perfectly blended. The effects of these bites lasted much longer than those of the moschetoes, and we were obliged to use a wash made of laudanum and extract of lead in order to allay the constant irritation produced. We passed twelve or thirteen small lakes between Santa Marta and the Magdalena, all of which are connected by natural passages, and only two are as I have described them, the others having plenty of water, although in some it is very stagnant, and emits a fetid smell; the sun's rays being entirely excluded by the large, tall trees which line very thickly either side. We saw, also, several large alligators sunning themselves on the mud-flats. The stagnation of the water in these passages is chiefly caused by

the meeting of the fresh and salt water, which stops the current. One of the greatest daily annoyances we suffered arose from the difficulty we had in getting our cooking done on board, there being no more spare room than would suffice for a small furnace. In the use of this we were obliged to share with the bogas, who either stole half of our provisions or kept us waiting their pleasure.

In the afternoon we gained the Magdalena River, and, with sail set and a strong breeze, reached Barranquilla at sunset. The first view of the Magdalena is apt to disappoint the traveller, as it is but about a mile in width, and its banks are low and reedy, bearing but slight marks of culture, plantains being the principal produce. We passed several large plantations of these, and saw also some fine cattle and milch cows.

The colour of the water is a thick muddy yellow. We could distinctly hear the tremendous roar, as the river emptied its vast store into the ocean. The whole distance from Santa Marta to Barranquilla by this route is about twenty-five leagues. With a better sail to the boat, and the additional aid of two bogas, we should have made the voyage a day sooner.

John Glen, Esq., of Barranquilla, to whom I took letters from Sr. Mier, received me most kindly, and already had a house provided for our use until such time as one of his boats could be got in readiness for conveying us up the river. This house was near the wharf, and our effects were soon disembarked and placed within it. A fine supper of boiled eggs, chocolate, &c., was ordered for the people, while Bishop and I bent our steps, in company with Mr. Glen, to his own fine mansion in the principal street of the town. Barranquilla is a much neater place than Santa Marta; the houses are nicely whitewashed, and the streets are wider, while there is a marked difference for the better in the looks of the

poorer classes. The place may contain between two and three thousand inhabitants. There is only one miserable-looking church. This town is the principal depôt on the river for keelboats, which ply between Santa Marta and Carthagena to Mompox; although, when the owners themselves are concerned in the freight, they frequently ascend to Honda; otherwise, at Mompox the cargoes are shifted into champans, which are esteemed the best conveyances from this place, where a sail can no longer be used, and the river becomes both shallower and more rapid. Mr. Glen owns a number of these boats, as does also another individual in the place. We were most vexatiously detained here until the 4th of January! For a length of time bogas were not to be had; and, when procured, it was so near the time of the holy-days that we could not get them to stir for love nor money. We enjoyed excellent health in this place; and probably our detention here was beneficial in the end, for residing in a situation so decidedly healthy as that of Barranquilla prepared our constitutions for the river voyage. Every night a fine fresh breeze sets in, which enables one to enjoy the most refreshing repose. The gentlemanly and unceasing attentions of Mr. Glen to strangers will long live in the remembrance of many besides myself. He is a Scotchman by birth, but has long lived in the country, having also served as colonel in the patriot army, and been reputed a brave and skilful officer. There were many others, also, in the place, whom I met at Mr. Glen's table, both foreigners and natives, all of whom possessed the most frank and pleasing manners. While here I slept in a hammock, by far the best mode in a country like this, as it is cool, and you avoid by this means sundry annoyances. The houses are mostly all built of sun-dried clay; they have thatched roofs, with open spaces at the eaves for admitting the breeze; which, although a

very comfortable plan in one respect, is not exactly so in another, as by this means quantities of bats enter and prove a great annoyance. While at B. I was introduced to Mr. Elbers, a German, who was then holding the right of exclusive navigation by steam of the Magdalena River, which right was to be forfeited in January, 1837, provided he had not by that time boats in full operation.* By every information from Mr. Glen, as well as from the guide Bishop, who had been a clerk in one of the two boats belonging to Mr. Elbers which was lost in the river near Naré, I was assured that there was no prospect of Mr. E.'s being able to comply successfully with the requisition of Congress, and that he must consequently lose his charter, and the river become free to all competitors, as such a river, the very gateway to the republic, should ever have remained. The loss of these two boats was caused by the most consummate carelessness on the part of their respective captains. When they were in successful operation, and carrying heavy freights, Mr. Elbers, instead of attending to his affairs in person, and in constructing other boats in case of accident, was expending the proceeds in a most extravagant manner in Bogotá, and leaving everything to the care of drunken captains and subordinates, until he found himself prostrated, as he was when I saw him at B., struggling along with the most cramped credit and resources, so as to secure a charter which but a few years ago he could have sold out for a round fifty thousand dollars. He invited me to go and see his steam saw-mill here, which is well got up. The men were but then sawing the planks for the intended steamboat. He sends some of the plank of fine cedar-wood to Jamaica, by this means adding to his funds for build-

* The river is now free for all competitors.

ing the boat. Mr. Elbers seemed to be linked heart and hand to the business at this period, and the only pity is that he had not been so long before.

On Christmas eve I was invited to an entertainment given by Sr. Trespalacios (three palaces) at his fine mansion, the only one of two stories in the town. In the early part of the evening we went to witness the services in the church; amusing enough, to be sure; small yellow tallow candles ornamented every corner and crevice of the barnlike building. An immense concourse of half-naked boys were seated on the earthen floor, making all sorts of uncouth sounds with small drums, penny whistles, cow-horns, &c., in order to imitate the rejoicings of the shepherds at the birth of Christ, while the squeaking of two or three fiddles and the nasal twang of the choir was altogether too much for our risible faculties to withstand. At ten o'clock dancing commenced in a building separate from that of Trespalacios', and then we adjourned to church again and remained until twelve; after that to the supper-room, where a company of about thirty couples sat down to a most excellent bill of fare, everything being well served up. The wines, however, were execrable. The claret, Madeira, port, all were a bungling imitation; not a smack of genuine originality in them! The curé did the honours of the table, a fine, fat, jolly fellow, the very picture of a Friar Tuck, and never at a loss for a dash at wit or repartee. One of the toasts given by him was, "Health to the sick, and good digestion to the healthy." Some of the dark beauties present were from the neighbouring village of Solidad; of these, if you except a small pretty foot and sparkling eye, all were very commonplace looking indeed, there being but two white faces in the whole assemblage! But a fig for colours, I suppose, beneath the melting influences of a sky like this. Three o'clock in the morning found all the party merry enough,

nor were any allowed to depart for an hour later. One of the refined amusements of the evening was for persons to go about daubing over some one's unoccupied chair with grease or mulled wine, and then laughing heartily when they proved successful in reseating the former occupant. Ladies and all joined in this rare sport!! This party, I found, was not given at the sole expense of one individual; but was a regular "out and out" picnic. Señor Trespalacios gave his rooms and servants; another sent a dozen of wine; a third poultry; and thus every guest present, excepting strangers, had each contributed a share. On these occasions a certain number of major-domo's are appointed, whose duty it is to attend to the contributions, and to take care that all glasses, crockery, &c., be returned to their proper owners. But this latter charge seldom happens to be fulfilled to the letter in a country where almost every servant is a born thief; and great outcries are frequently made for articles not forthcoming at the close of such feasts. Christmas, merry Christmas! how does the heart at this season, and in a strange land, yearn towards its own dear home; while busy thought wanders all over the past as connected with this happy period, and the affections ask, "Will they miss the wanderer from his place to-night? will a sigh, a tear, mix in with the cup of joy?" Well, I said, here's to a stout heart and the path where duty calls us; and though yet our next Christmas may be spent like this, may our affections know no decrease by absence!

27th. Sunday. I rode out to Solidad, distant about a league and a half. It contains about three thousand inhabitants, and is built after the manner of Barranquilla, but neither so neat nor so pleasant, while the moschetoes are very numerous, and the fine river breeze not felt as in Barranquilla, its situation being so much more hemmed in from the

Magdalena. The road to it is very pleasant. It is lined with fences of the prickly pear, which make a most capital hedge, for no animal will dare to breast one which is constructed of them. This plant grows here to the height of fifteen feet. Soledad once enjoyed a considerable trade in the forwarding line, but Barranquilla has now wholly outdone it. During the whole Christmas week I was kept awake every night, more or less, by parties of bogas parading through the streets, singing and playing on a sort of rude reed pipe. They seemed to be very merry, and but few drunkards are to be seen in the street compared with those found on similar holydays in New-York or London. My American guide, Bishop, who is a mechanical genius, repaired the church organ here, and received for his job of three days two doubloons.

2d January. We were now all ready for our departure from Barranquilla; but we found that our goods from Santa Marta might not yet be expected here for a fortnight. The bogas had spent the whole of their advance money, and we were all glad to embark. I engaged two bongas of Mr. Glen for nine hundred dollars, to take me to Honda in thirty days, having already paid one hundred dollars to bring us from Santa Marta here; an enormous price when it is considered that this sum was charged for the bare boats; however, there is much to be learned, even long after setting out from Barranquilla.

CHAPTER II.

Stores necessary for the River.—Causes of the good Health enjoyed by the Party.—Fatal Accident.—General Appearance and Character of the Villages on the River.—Small Exertions necessary to gain a Livelihood.—Plan of Encampment for the Night.—Peculiarity of the Wood.—Alligators.—Teneriffe.—Mompox.—Governor Trancoso.—Erroneous Opinions of Travellers.—Goîtres.—Mode of extinguishing Fires.—Margarita.—Difficulties with the Bogas.—Obstructions in the River.—Alligators Fishing.—Manner in which the Natives fish.—Port of Ocaña.—Toilet of the Native Women.—Wild Turkeys.—Severe Sting of the Insects.

I WILL commence this chapter with a list of the different stores which we laid in for our river voyage before leaving New-York; which, with the exception of a very few particulars, could not have been better selected, and will also state the kind of dress best adapted for guarding against the various Magdalena pests and inconveniences. With the guide, we were now twelve in number. Our provisions consisted of seven barrels of best white sea-biscuit; half a barrel of wheat flour, a superfluous article; one barrel best salt beef; half a barrel of pork; one barrel of hams, tongues, and Bologna sausages; eight jars of butter, well sealed, and each containing about twenty-two pounds, which we found to be a most useful and necessary article for frying plantains, eggs, &c.; two half chests of tea; coffee, chocolate, sugar, and rice are best procured in the country; twelve dozen of claret; five gallons of brandy; five gallons of gin; two jars of pickles; two bottles of catsup; two boxes of raisins; two large cheeses, and pepper, mustard, &c. Our crockery and culinary utensils were

one dozen cups and saucers; one dozen knives and forks; one soup tureen; one dozen of plates; one dozen pewter drinking-cups; one largest size dinner-kettle; one second size dinner-pot; one sauce-pan; one tea-kettle; one frying-pan. To each person was appropriated a hair-mattress and cott-bedstead, with all the requisite linen, &c.; also a good moscheto-net and a tent-stool.

I had a very large wooden chest, secured by a good lock, and divided into several compartments, in which was kept, safe from the thievish clutches of the bogas, all our small knickknacks for daily use. One barrel of bread was opened at a time, and always placed well aft, so that it was immediately under our own inspection night and day. We put all the spirits into the cabin. Besides our original stock, we laid in a sufficient supply of the rum of the country at Barranquilla, designed to serve the bogas until our arrival at Mompox, being dealt out at the rate of two drams each per day.

Due regard to clothing is also a most material point. Boots should be constantly worn; drawers and pantaloons of stout brown linen; no vest, but a jacket or coatee of nankeen or brown linen; if shoes are to be preferred on account of coolness, they must be worn with thick woollen stockings, which will ward off, in part, the attacks of the moschetoes. I have known feet to become so dreadfully swollen by the bites of these little animals on the river as to preclude the possibility of wearing either boots or leathern shoes for a long time. The application of lime-juice to severe bites will greatly allay the irritation. Women should wear stout laced boots, and long leather gloves to save their wrists from attack; also a loose dark dress of some stout material, with a close collar and thick veil; no stays should ever be worn on this

voyage; they have been proved to be very injurious. All, both men and women, should have straw hats with broad brims, and linings to draw close at the top, to protect their heads from the intensity of the sun's rays. Unless thus protected, it is at the risk of life or health for any to expose themselves over twenty minutes to the power of the sun at noonday, or to check a free perspiration by the too unguarded exposure of the body to the breeze or night air.*

Water dipped up from the Magdalena, if left to stand in a jar during the night until properly settled, may be always drank with perfect safety. Indeed, I never tasted better. Upon the whole, save with the exception of one fatal accident to be here recorded, and of the few hours' sickness of one of the women in Mompox, the whole of our party arrived in Honda much more healthy-looking than when we left our homes. This may, in part, be attributed to the fine season of the year when our expedition arrived, which was by far the best, as the river, having previously receded from the high banks, presented her fine white sand-bars as a shield from the vegetable effluvia of the shore. Yet, after all, I am persuaded that imprudence in drink and diet, and exposure to the sun, are the chief causes of much of the sickness suffered by foreigners in ascending this river. Upon the first appearance of fever, the safest plan is immediately to discontinue all kind of nourishment for twenty-four hours; after which, a dose of some active medicine will set all right again; the French pill, called "Franque's grains de santé," are recommended as the best for this river.

* To any one unacquainted with South American travel in the interior, this description of stores, &c., may seem both useless and tedious; but to all who may intend setting out on a like journey, such information cannot come too early or minutely.

Our boats were called the "San George" and "Joachim de Mier." The former had six bogas and a patron, in which I placed five of my men. In the other, which was much larger, and manned by eight bogas and a patron, I went myself, with the guide, another man, and four women. The stores also were placed in this boat, and at nine o'clock A. M. we were once more afloat. After the serious delay we had encountered, my spirits were much relieved by finding ourselves on the way to Honda at last. We started with our sails set and filled by a fine breeze, which constantly blows up the river for some distance. At half past five P. M. we reached the village of "Sitio Nuevo," distant six leagues from Barranquilla; but the route which we were obliged to take in order to find water enough by the way of the "caña baja" (lower canal), added three leagues more to our journey. The day being succeeded by a fine moonlight night, we continued sailing along very pleasantly until about eight o'clock, when, in one of the worst "remolinos" or whirlpools in the river, a most sad and untoward accident befell us, which even now causes my blood to chill with horror at the bare remembrance.

A young woman of my party had seated herself on one of those tent-stools I have mentioned, with her back towards the boat's low gunwale and her head resting upon the thatch of the little cabin, in which position it was presumed she must have fallen into a doze, although she had spoken to one of the people who sat close beside her but a minute previous; for, in an instant, without any sign or scream whatever, she fell back into the whirling current, and never rose again in life! So rapid was this dangerous current, that it was some minutes before the boat could be fairly stopped. At the very instant she fell, I offered a reward of two hundred dollars to any boga who would jump in

to reseue her; but no one would stir, although they could all swim like ducks, and were well acquainted with the ways of this river; I afterward was told by the patron of the boat that it would have been folly for any to have accepted the offer, as, amid so many counter-currents, and the river swarming here with alligators, an attempt of the kind by night might only have increased the disaster. A very fine young Pole, one of my company, was just about springing into the water, when the patron held him fast, and bade me explain to him how useless it was to attempt it, especially as the body of the unfortunate girl had never reappeared above the surface. After stopping the boats for a full hour, and sending men both up and down the shores of the river for some distance without being able to make any discovery, we again pursued our course.

The next morning, on landing at the first village, I despatched a note to Mr. Glen, to order a watch in case the body should be floating down; and, if so, to have all possible attention paid to its interment at my expense. Three days afterward, it was discovered by a man in a canoe near to the very mouth of the river, floating out to sea, and taken back to Barranquilla, and there interred.

The body had not been touched by the alligators; but they never do touch a dead body. They seize upon it when first descending and still alive, though I believe instances are very rare of their devouring people, as you will frequently see the bogas jump overboard for the purpose of taking a boatline on shore when the head of one of these monsters is within a single yard of the place where he struck the water. And so perished this poor woman, in a far strange land, launched in a moment into eternity without one single scream or witnessed struggle! The occurrence threw a sullen gloom

over all our little party; even the rough bogas partook of this feeling, and for a while, at least, restrained the sounds that usually proceeded from their vile lips. All that night I scarcely closed my eyes in sleep; I felt as if I myself was to blame for bringing the unfortunate creature here. Yet surely it was a most careless act in her to seat herself where she did, as the least movement of the boat, she must have been aware, might precipitate her into the river! How forcibly did the premonition come home to us here, of that solemn truth, "In the midst of life we are in death!"

We stopped all night in front of the miserable little village of the Remolino; where, spreading our mattresses on the decks of the boat, and stretching over us our toldos or moscheto-nets, we slept very soundly. Were under weigh at daylight, and now, the wind having failed us, we poled along, passed Guamia at ten A. M., and reached "Punta Gorda" at six P. M. Here we saw fine-looking cows grazing on the banks of the river; the land seeming very rich, with scarcely a vestige of it under cultivation. Creeping vines hang in thick festoons from the trees on the banks, and present a very singular spectacle. To avoid repetition, I will make a sketch of the general appearance and character of these small villages, which the traveller meets in ascending this river, and which may serve for all.

The number of houses, or rather huts of dried clay and thatch, having but one door and window in front, vary from ten to eighty; they generally face the river, some of the larger ones having streets running back. Of course, in this class of villages I do not include Morales, Banco, and Barranca, which are larger and of some little trade; but even Naré, the great river port for Antiochia, is yet a most wretched little village. The greater

number of these small places have a church, built and thatched in like manner with the houses, the gable end always facing the river.

The people subsist by fishing, raising plantains to sell to the boats, or by keeping small shops, from which they serve out coarse dry-goods, aguardiente, boyas, &c., to the bogas. Notwithstanding all this, there is great apparent difference between these villages as regards their individual cleanliness and the condition of their inhabitants; but all are equally dull and uninteresting. The statement given by a recent traveller, of these villages having bamboo fences to keep away, as he considered, the attacks of alligators, is certainly a novel one! There is no such need. Mompox is the only place on the river where anything like the bustle of active human life and industry is to be found. Generally you find the residents sleeping in their huts, or lolling under the shade of some huge tree on the river's brink; too lazy even to return an answer to a simple question. We have frequently known them evade the trouble of selling us some article we wished to purchase merely for the sake of not being disturbed; when, at the same time, the miserable creatures had not one single cuartillo in their possession. Talk as we will of independence in the United States, it is on the banks of the sunny Magdalena that it is to be seen in its greatest perfection. There it is enjoyed, not as a mere chimera of the brain, but as a substantial reality. There land is to be had for almost nothing; and all that is requisite is to stick into the earth a few sprouts of plantain, to work a little for the first two years, to supply present wants until the fruit is ready; or else to live upon the fine fish which are caught by means of the common hand-net: each individual builds his own house, makes his own tables, and sleeps upon the floor on a straw mat. Should the

luxury of a light be required, it is only necessary to spear a sleeping alligator to procure an excellent oil; as for clothes, the fashion of that section of the country does not exact much; half a yard of unbleached cotton cloth will supply all that is requisite for a whole year. Many of the negresses and squaws, however, go in camisons (gowns) of printed goods; and the small farmers between these villages are often found dressed in shirts and loose trousers of white cotton, and even linen. The bogas, in general, receive good wages for their trips up and down the river, and it is upon them that the lazy villagers depend, fleecing them whenever they have an opportunity.

If a boga has a family, a portion of his wages is generally retained in the hands of his employer, and dealt out to them until his return. But for this, they would fare sadly indeed.

6th. Started at five A. M. The weather very thick and the air chilly until nine o'clock. We passed Peñon, the Cerro de San Antonio; and, at sunset, halted at Pedrasa, a place opposite Barranca, where the road to Carthagena begins. This day the scenery was a little changed, not being quite so tame as it is below; fine forest trees and flowering shrubs are seen all around. Here we stopped for the night, and preferred sleeping on board the bongas to going on shore, our arrangements for the night being simply these: we first spread down our mats, upon which we placed the mattresses; then sticking up two poles, one at the prow, the other at the stern of the boat, we stretched out a line the whole of this length, to which we fastened the top of the toldas or moscheto-nets, the bottom being carefully tucked up under the mattress, leaving only space enough to admit the person. Through this we were obliged to enter very nimbly to evade the legion that generally followed close to our heels.

When fairly under our respective little tents, we took three wands of about four feet in length, and, with their ends slightly sharpened, in order to stick them into the sides of the netting, extended it so as to give us room to sit up and undress with all necessary convenience and ease.

The bogas slept on the fine white sand-beach, where they spread their mats and reared their toldas, and the patrons of the boats remained on board. When we stopped near a village, however, the bogas generally were stowed away in the huts of the place. The repose which we thus enjoyed on the way I have described as more delicious than any I ever experienced, owing to the delightful, balmy nights, the air of which seemed made up of some pleasant narcotic compound. All of my party experienced the same feelings. One thing, however, must not be neglected, namely, the getting under your little meshed roof without admitting one of those midnight, bloodthirsty bag-pipers, the moschetoes, or bid sleep and rest good-by for the night. The distance from Barranca Nueva to Barranca Vieja is one league. The former is the place of embarcation from Carthagena.

7th. Started at sunrise. We generally stopped once a day to get wood for culinary purposes; and it was amusing to see the manner in which the bogas went about chopping it, taking a full half hour to procure a sufficiency for a single meal, and using for that purpose their machetes or knives, a sort of bungling attempt at a sword. A stout Yankee, with a proper felling-axe, would outchop twenty of these bogas. The greater part of the woods on this river and throughout the country consists of trees extremely heavy, full of sap, and quite unfit for burning. Should steamboats ever navigate this river as regularly as is contemplated, I fear they will experience much trouble in pro-

curing sufficient supplies of dry fuel. For though we frequently observed a dead tree upon the shore which appeared to have lain there for at least five or six years, its whole body being whitened with sun and age, yet, when we attempted to use it, it would not burn, but only sent forth volumes of smoke. We slept this night at the Traversie of Teneriffe, having made since morning about six leagues. At a few furlongs back from the river we found a very neat farm-hut, where we bought some excellent milk. This was the most scientifically laid out farm that we had yet seen, possessing good cattle-yard, fences, &c.

8th. On our way again at half past five. Before starting every morning I gave to each of our hands a glass of annisse (spirits of the country), and one more when we stopped at night. This has become customary on the river as an inducement to the men to work harder. It often fails, however, in producing the desired effect, as will be shown in the sequel. Teneriffe has once been a considerable town, as its present ruins fully indicate; its site is much more elevated than that of any of those already passed. It contains now about two thousand souls. At this place was fought a desperate battle between the Patriots and Spaniards, which at length was decided in favour of the former, who butchered or drove into the river some hundreds of the conquered, without regard to age or sex, and burned down the church and the greater part of the town. The ruins of the brick fort are on the highest point of the bluff in front of the town; and those of a large cathedral are directly in the rear. We had a view of about twenty caymans* lying together; I crept up and got a shot at one of them with heavy slugs; but, though within thirty feet, the shot, which struck him full on the head, had apparently no other effect than

* Alligators.

merely to quicken his descent into the river. I was very sorry now that a good rifle had not been made one of the accompaniments of our voyage. These caymans deposite their eggs in the same way as the tortoise, and in similar quantities; they are laid in the sand, and are of the size of a goose egg, and perfectly white. The bogas destroy their nests whenever they can. Nor have they much difficulty in finding them, as the animal leaves a broad, deep trail behind all the way from their nests to the river, caused by the dragging along of their huge bodies. The remainder of this day, from nine o'clock A. M., was lost, owing to the bogas going ashore under the never-ending pretence of cutting crotches to their poles; indeed, the law allows them this day; but, according to our agreement with Mr. Glen, and bogas also, they should have proceeded directly to Honda without the usual delays. We had, however, yet to learn the general acceptation and full meaning of these wretches' words and promises; and, not unfrequently, that of their employers also. I even offered to buy these crotches for them in Mompox, where they are for sale ready made; but this would not do. They were bent on having a drunken frolic, and so they had.

9th. Off at half past three A. M. At first I attributed this early start to a good disposition in these men to make up for the time lost the day before; but such was not the case; I had severely reprimanded both patrons and bogas for their delay of the boats; but as it is not until they get to Mompox that their indentures are fairly secured for the voyage, and as I could then have had the privilege of exchanging any refractory boga, it was their wish to keep in my good graces until fairly afloat from that place, after which I could have no remedy whatever. Mompox likewise being the great scene of all their fun and frolic, and advance of wages,

was a sufficient spur of itself to make them accelerate their progress thither as much as possible. Opposite the small village of Plato we met the public mail in a canoe, paddled by three men and steered by a patron. The carrying of the public mail is one of the most singular moral features in the whole country, offering, as it does, an instance of such strange contradiction and striking opposition to the general thievish habits of the people! To think that four poor negroes or Indians, with no other weapons of defence than the common machete of the country and a lance or two, should be able to convey, in a frail log-canoe, this great mail, which frequently contains in gold and silver alone some hundreds of thousands of dollars, with perfect safety! and this, too, through a lonely, savage tract, where nothing could be more easy and safe than for a few daring individuals to perpetrate any crime they pleased! Yet I believe there has been but one single attempt upon the mail since the establishment of the republic! At a quarter before ten A. M. we made the village of Sambrano, which was very rapid travelling for this river! The soil still continued to be very fertile, yet a complete waste. Large sand-bars are formed where, on one side, the river has receded from its banks; these become, in time, covered with vegetation and a species of willow-tree. On the opposite banks it is continually encroaching; and there you may see huge trees, with their supporting earth, just ready to fall, which oftentimes proves very dangerous to the boats and canoes passing along. The former channel of the river must have changed in some places at least half a mile, and it is still constantly shifting. We made Boca de San Pedro River at half past four P. M.; slept at night near a wild, desolate spot, having proceeded, in all, four leagues this day.

10th. Started again at half past three A. M. A lovely, clear morning. Made the mouth of the Cauca at noon. At one o'clock the small village of Pinto, which has a very pleasant site; the thermometer at noon standing at 95°. At sunset anchored close to a heavy wood; found myriads of moschetoes!

11th. Off again at two o'clock in the morning; rather tough work, having our rest broken in upon in this way, especially such delicious repose as one enjoys in this climate. But anything to hasten on our journey. Made Santa Ana at four A. M. Bells ringing for mass. At four P. M. we reached Mompox, where we had our beds, &c., moved into two good houses adjoining each other and close to the landing. Here one of the women took sick and had to be bled. Her disease, however, not being very serious, she soon recovered. Mr. E. Glen arrived at the same time nearly as ourselves. He came to see the boats off and the contract with the men completed. We slept soundly this night, after the great fatigue we had undergone during the last few days previous to our arrival.

The city of Mompox presents a very neat appearance from the river, as contrasted with other places we had passed, great attention being paid to keeping the houses whitewashed. In the interior of the town there are some spacious buildings. The churches, five in number, are not much worth speaking of; the one standing in the market square is the most frequented; the bells, and most wretched ones they are, are detached from the building for fear of earthquakes. The streets are laid out very regularly, but the great quantities of fine sand and the want of pavement makes walking very unpleasant. The population may be about nine or ten thousand, a large proportion of which are negroes. Mompox is the great mart for the bogas,

hundreds of whom either live here or are scattered along the banks of the river contiguous to it. Some few of them have their own little rosas or plantations, where they grow sugarcane, plantains, and corn just sufficient for their own actual subsistence. Formerly there was a very heavy wall of brick running in front of the town and along the river's banks, most of which is now in ruins; the best remaining portion being only a few rods above the market-place where we landed, and furnished with stairs to facilitate the ascent. The river, which, when high, enters the streets, has probably caused its destruction by undermining the banks. All around the city, and even close to the very houses, it is a tangled wilderness. The churchyard, lying in the rear of the town, is a beautiful spot, having a small, neat chapel attached to it, and first planned by the present bishop of Santa Marta. Beyond this little churchyard lies the more homely one into which the poor stranger is laid, when life with all its cares are for ever over. This city has a pretty good market, and we managed to live very well at a moderate rate, though not without occasional combatings with dirty Spanish cooks. It was the season of the breeze when we arrived, and all the natives were complaining of headaches, &c.; while to us it was truly delightful, as we experienced none of the bad effects it produced upon them. Yet, even at this season, the weather in the middle of the day was intolerably hot, the glass at noon standing at 94°. The short period during the day in which one can walk is early in the morning, from about five to half past seven. In the evening they shut up their houses and seat themselves by their doors, taking care to remove the lights, so that they may not beacon in the moschetoes.

There are several respectable and wealthy families in Mompox, and both ladies and gentlemen vie

with each other in their attentions to strangers; a circumstance which I found to be nowhere else so general, if you except Carthagena. Governor Troncoso is the very soul of a gentleman and a man of honour. He was for a length of time a resident in the Island of Jamaica, and his government is very much indebted to him on more than one occasion for his able management of the city and provincial affairs. As there exists much ill feeling between the black and white population, and as the former rose up once or twice, threatening to overturn the present system, some such sound-minded, discreet, and highly popular man as Sr. Troncoso is requisite to quell all disturbances of this kind. I delivered letters to this gentleman; also to a Mr. Rose, an English merchant, and to several others. I was introduced to a Mr. Leone and family. Mr. L. is an American merchant, formerly from Baltimore; and his family, which is a truly amiable one, seemed to labour continually to contribute in some way to my pleasure and convenience. Sr. Pino is the heaviest forwarding merchant in the city, and owns many boats, being also connected with Aguadelo at Honda; there are others, however, and not a few, who drive a good business in this way. A great many boats and champans line the whole side of the river as far as the city extends; and the noise and hum of busy industry created by the loading and unloading of cargoes, and repairing and building of boats, is very agreeable to the ears of one accustomed to life in New-York, and more especially so after passing (as one must in reaching this) the dead, stagnant little villages and towns on the river. The author of "Letters from Columbia" says "the people here have a strong passion for ardent spirits." I never found it so with the better class, and, even with the lowest, they are never to be seen

drunk in the streets. 'Tis true they drink some, as all people do in so hot a climate; yet nothing to that excess to which it is carried in England or the States. Annisse is mostly drank here, and they make the very best in all the country; it sells at the rate of one real a quart bottle. Had the inhabitants of Mompox, indeed, no worse feature in their character than that of drunkenness, they would do well enough!

After giving the bogas two days' respite, they begged so hard for a third, promising faithfully to make up for the loss, that their request was granted, and we remained in Mompox another day. I visited a large building, formerly the exchange under the old Spanish regime; now it is used as an almshouse; and here, also, ore was smelted. Miserable-looking wretches poured out from some of the rooms, and, crowding around, solicited alms, though in this place they are not indifferently provided for. Formerly, all the poor creatures of this class thronged the streets as they do at present in Mexico; but now, the wise measures of the government have adopted the more humane plan of employing them in almshouses, much to the bettering of their wretched condition, as well as adding to the comfort of the citizen and stranger, who were always perplexingly annoyed by them. In one of the old decayed rooms I was shown four very odd-fashioned wooden figures, of most gigantic proportions. They are much dilapidated, and were found here by the Spaniards, and said to have been Indian idols. In Mompox there exists nothing of the squalid misery and filth which is so prevalent in Santa Marta; and the poorer classes go much more decently clad, and are far more cleanly in their houses. They seem to be a very happy race; and as one will not meet a sorrowful face during a day's walk, it is reasonable to conclude that with them, most surely, "ignorance is

bliss." There is very little trade here, and that little principally in the retail, the great bulk of goods coming from Jamaica. But profits are very low, and bear no proportion to the length of time required for goods to reach the market, and the great risk arising from bad travelling. That greatest of all pests, the duty of alcabala, is now done away with. Every time the goods were sold it imposed a duty of four per cent.; now, in room of this, eight per cent. is put upon all importations. Yet even the heavy duty was not so much to be deprecated as the delay at each port on the river, and the tampering with every little scoundrel of a collector, whose authority was absolute, and who looked for a bribe even to perform his duty. There are no such things as gunboats here at present, but merely a miserable garrison of a few soldiers, at whose head is the redoubted Col. Piñarez, who once concealed himself to avoid fighting during one of their petty revolutions. He holds this office merely because that most of his family perished by the hands of the Spaniards. Surely he is one of the very last persons to be placed at the head of a garrison, in a city of such combustible materials as Mompox. Besides this office, he was elected this year to the senate at Bogotâ. Goîtres are very common here. Some have them frightfully large: it is truly distressing to the stranger to look upon an otherwise beautiful female, and see her neck disfigured by such an appendage! They, however, seem to think nothing of it, but affect, on the contrary, to consider it an acquisition to their beauty. I, however, am of opinion that this is but the policy of those who have them, after the manner of the poor fox in the fable. It is said that a sea-voyage will remove these goîtres, with how much of truth I cannot say. On the very day we left Mompox they had a serious fire, caused by the wind's blowing some hot em-

bers out of a small furnace, which set fire to one of those little cane sheds that are almost always in the rear of every house. As the only means they had of extinguishing the flame was by pouring large earthen jars of water upon them, the fire spread over a great extent in an instant, and was only arrested by arriving at a large vacant enclosure. To see them running with these huge jars of water, and dashing them, jars and all, into the flames, strikes one as certainly a most novel and primitive mode of putting a stop to a conflagration.

Before leaving Mompox I visited Mr. Pino, who lives in excellent style. He is very courteous in his manners, and is said to have lost much money at different times through the national habit of gambling, which pervades all classes of society here.

15th. The bogas having at last got through with their spare cash, and all being in readiness, we proceeded on board the same bonga boats, as I was convinced of the superiority of these to the champan, in which it is necessary to keep all day under the straw deck, where there is but little air, and almost always a greater or less number of moschetoes in the thatch, which at pleasure descend upon one without his being able to chase them away; while the harsh stamping of the bogas overhead, as they pole the boat along, cause dirt and all sorts of river vermin continually to tumble down. Yet, with all these disadvantages, more than nine tenths of travellers take champans; but I preferred the bonga, in which, a nice light awning being spread above the quarter-deck, one can have a much more convenient seat, merely excepting the rocking motion of the boat; and, as soon as the sun's influence is felt, the troublesome moschetoes are no longer to be seen. Besides, the bonga is a much safer boat for passing rapids and sunken trees in the river

than the flat-bottomed champan, which, with its low open sides, is liable to be upset or filled with water, as has sometimes been the case. Having taken leave of our kind Mompox friends, and received presents of various sorts of dulces (preserves), such as the orange, pine-apple, &c., we set off at half past seven A. M. upon our long and tedious voyage to Honda.

At two o'clock P. M. we made the beautiful little village of Margarita, which is completely imbosomed in a grove of orange-trees. Nothing can exceed the effect produced upon the traveller by the beautiful scenes here presented. The banks of the river are raised about twelve feet, and the shores are perfectly level, while two wide avenues, thickly lined with orange-trees, extend at least a mile along the banks, and the grove continues one league in the direction of Mompox. This, with the rich golden fruit hanging thickly upon the trees, was to me a most novel sight. These avenues are laid out with great precision, and the few houses composing the village are in the rear of the second one.

Fine cocoanut and palm trees, mangoes, et cetera, also grow here. Oranges could be procured for six and a quarter cents per hundred; and then it was so delicious to eat them fully ripened on the tree. My people would not be restrained from eating large quantities of them; but it was attended with no serious results whatever, although the natives prophesied much evil from the indulgence. After the bogas had finished their dinner, and I was, of course, expecting them to proceed a little farther, they plainly refused to go on, preparing in the mean while to go on shore, for the purpose, probably, of finishing their Mompox carousal. I really became exasperated at this part of their conduct, especially as they had been willingly allowed three and a half days in Mompox upon their promise of future good conduct; and this

was the result of the undeserved kindness. Determined to see who should be master, I buckled on my pistols and jumped on shore in the midst of them, bidding, at the same time, my men in the boats to arm themselves in case of any strife. Neither threats, however, nor persuasions would induce them to go to their duty, nor was a single alcalde to be found in the place. What was to be done? I thought I might as well journey back to Mompox, and lay my grievances before the owner of the boats, as to lie fast here. So, selecting two of the bogas, I set out in a canoe, and arrived again at Mompox at eight o'clock in the evening, my return, of course, giving much surprise to Mr. Glen. To my great disappointment, I found there was but little to be expected from that source; for although Mr. Glen talked a great deal about "seeing to the scoundrels," &c., I could soon perceive he had no more authority over them than I had, now that they were fairly engaged and away from Mompox; neither has an alcalde, nor any other person; so there is no redress. A military chief has on some occasions shot one of them, as a warning to the rest, when they thus began their pranks, and by their refractory conduct promised to mar the expedition. There is, however, no other method of getting along with them; I had paid the wretches extra wages; had engaged an extra number of men, so as to make their work more easy; and had treated them kindly, yet they never ceased annoying and delaying me on the whole voyage! They were said, too, to have been particularly selected as trustworthy persons!! The best and only sure mode of getting to Honda speedily with large boats is, in the first place, to pay well; and, having done this, to bind both master and crew in a forfeiture of half the stipulated sums to carry you to Honda in such a number of days, being sure to keep these sums in your own hands until the agreement is ful-

filled; and see, too, that this agreement is drawn out in a proper legal form, as nothing seems to please these people so much as going to law. You must take care that they agree to do this, accidents or no accidents; for nothing is easier than for these fellows to cause an accident to the boat whenever it suits them, by running her against a rock in one of the strong currents; or they will feign themselves sick. I slept at Mr. Leone's, and in the morning returned to Margarita about nine o'clock. Got under weigh immediately, making seven leagues this day; the bogas seemingly willing to make up for yesterday's conduct.

17th. Off at half past five A. M. Had bad poling to-day, owing to obstructions in the river, caused by trees, logs, and bushes. Over some of these large bodies of wood the water runs like a mill-sluice, and the boat being necessarily kept out from shore in order to get around them, the water becomes too deep for the poles to reach the bottom; and then their only plan is to propel the boat by applying their poles to the obstructions themselves, while the bowman keeps it close in by means of a wooden hook. The exertions made to pass these places are often terrible to witness; not unfrequently the wood-hook breaks, the poles slip from off the smooth surface of the wood, and away goes the boat, like a bolt from the bow, a mile or so down the current, until she is swept into shore again by the boat-sweeps, which are nothing more than flat pieces of board, about two feet long and six or eight inches wide, lashed to long round sticks. Occurrences like these try all one's patience, causing as they do the loss of ground, which, step by step, had been gained by so much toil and expense of time.

A crew of bogas at their daily meal presents a scene worth describing. An immense red earthen pot is brought reeking hot into the midst of the savage

group, as they are all seated, or, rather, squatted down on their hams on the fore-deck, each man having a calabash shell and wooden spoon, with which he scoops up the messes of thick boiled rice, plantains, and bits of black jerked beef, all mixed together; they eat enormous quantities, and very fast, washing it all down with the water of the river, fresh and muddy as it runs past the boat. The patron eats of the same food; but his mess is handed him aft, and I generally added something from my own table, with a glass of claret. The dinner-hour of the bogas regulated our own, as it would have been very foolish to stop the boat again. Yet their behaviour on such occasions subjected us to witness the most revolting scenes of filth, and conduct much below that of the brute creation. Neither persuasions, nor even threatenings of any sort could effectually deter them from their beastly practices. We passed Banco, a little village where they manufacture much of the red earthenware which is used on the river. The site is composed of the red clay used in this manufacture. Made Peñon at half past five P. M., where we stopped, making six leagues in all. We could now see the mountains of Antiochia in the distance, which relieved very much the monotony of the flat country scenery.

18th. Started at half past five A. M. Counted thirty-nine alligators, all of which were lying close together in one extended line. Some of them were very large. It is really horrible to witness them devouring that large fish called the bagre, for which they lie in wait in the current and eddies of the river. They bring their huge jaws together upon their prey with a great noise and splashing, and then raise their heads out of the water in order to devour them, which occupies more time than would be expected in such a monster. Should they happen to seize upon the fish crosswise, they

have great trouble in placing it in a straight position that they may swallow it, the blood running all the time over their hideous jaws. They sleep a great deal in the sun, with their mouths wide extended. Our boat would frequently get within an oar's length of one without waking it up; and, at this short distance, once or twice I poured a whole charge of duck-shot directly into his throat; but, whether he survived or not, I could not determine, as it invariably got to the water again. When we were about half a league from Los dos Caños we stopped for the night; the bogas stretched their straw mats on a beautiful playa (sand-bar) of white sand. These mats, with their toldas over their heads, are the only beds they have. Moving around a large fire in the night, cooking their supper, with the white toldas raised around, they would form an excellent tableau for a painter. These fires are also essential for warding off the attacks of the tigers and other wild beasts, whose tracks are to be distinctly traced on every playa in the river. All night long the splashing of the caymans is to be heard as they pounce upon the unlucky fish; and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could pacify the women, and convince them of the impossibility of these animals reaching their heads above the gunwale and lugging them off.

19th. On our way at the usual hour. At the place where we stopped to make our morning meal I observed a fine field of maize; but the furrows were far too thickly set to yield well. The river is thickly studded with small islands, many of them scarcely containing a single acre, and are, evidently, nothing more than the formation of sand and drifted wood. Reached San Pedro at noon; a few straggling huts in a very pretty situation. We saw, for the first time, two pavas or wild turkeys to-day, but not within gunshot. I now regretted more than

ever not having brought a rifle for the caymans; they were so numerous and daring, that one felt an unaccountable desire to lessen their numbers. We made Regidor at four P. M., where we stopped for the night; the place consists merely of a few poor huts.

20th. Off at the usual hour. We were obliged to take that branch of the river by Ocaña, the Morales branch being too dry to venture upon with safety. The entrance is two miles above Regidor. It added two leagues to our journey, while the bogas received each an additional two dollars; for what reason no one knows, except it be for old customs' sake. I was obliged again to scold them for impeding our progress, by continually leaving their work to plunge into the water, as often as they chanced to espy a turtle-nest ashore, being extravagantly fond of the eggs. The facility with which they get them out is truly wonderful. We now arrived at the mouth of the Caño de Tamalaque, and about one league and a half up are the ruins of the city of that name, which was destroyed by the Spaniards. The estera or mat of the country is largely manufactured there. I saw this day larger timber than any we had as yet passed; also some cords of diewoods piled up on the shore. Numbers of the ugly red monkeys assailed our ears with their disagreeable bellowings. We moored to a playa and caught some of the fish called "boca chica" (little mouth), which are of the herring tribe, and are very nice eating when fried. We also shot two fine ducks. The people are very expert in casting the hand-net of the country, which is of a circular form, and requires much practice and skill to be thrown smoothly. The cooking of the fish seemed to occupy the crew half of the night, keeping us awake with their noise.

There are numerous plantations of the plantain

on the river, of which, from time to time, a supply was obtained; while we took care to gauge the quantity taken by the distances between the places of supply, as there are whole leagues in many parts where not a single hut is to be seen! What a shame, in a country with such a soil as this! How would the starvelings of old Europe revel in plenty here! But that time will not arrive while the present order and management of things continues in New-Granada.

21st. On our journey at half past five A. M. One of the bogas took sick, and refused medicine, but wished rum. He got neither. We entered the port of Ocaña at eleven in the forenoon. Here were ten or twelve poor huts, and a storehouse for the goods which are sent to and brought from the interior. We remained in this place until the 24th, as no threat, no promise, nor alcalde could move these villanous bogas a single step. The heat of the weather was rendered doubly intolerable by the fever of passion and vexation which raged within me at this shameful and provoking conduct of these men. The thermometer stood at 95°. About half a league back from this landing lies the Puerto Nacional, quite a considerable village. A very pretty mule-path leads to it through a forest of large shady trees. No business is now done here, although in the time of the Spaniards it was a place of some note. There are still standing some large empty brick storehouses. A large pond of stagnant water close by renders the place very unhealthy.

The women have a very simple way of making their toilet on the Magdalena; they bring to the river side a change of clean garments, and large calabashes for dipping up the water; after loosening the dress round the neck, they commence pouring over their heads calabash after calabash full of

water, remaining all the time in a sitting posture. Which ceremony being completed, they comb and braid their hair, dress, and retire. There is scarcely a white inhabitant to be seen in these small villages. There were two or three large champans lying here. On this day all my people mustered their guns, and we killed five fine turkeys of the kind called gucharaca. I shot one which weighed thirty-eight pounds with a single ball; we came upon them by the side of a small lake, deep in the forest. We could also have shot some fine ducks of the kind called the "pato real" (royal duck), had we but had a dog to bring them out. In holding up my hand to put aside some branches in a thicket, I received a severe sting from a large black insect of the beetle tribe, which instantly caused a swelling and throbbing so violent, that, before gaining the village, it had reached the elbow, while the pain I suffered was almost insupportable. An Indian woman applied soaked tobacco-leaves, making me, at the same time, swallow some kind of potion, which had the effect of easing the pain in a very short time; and, in the course of the day, the swelling entirely disappeared. During the whole of this day's travel we did not see a single snake, but a great number of black wasps, lizards, and iguanas.

CHAPTER III.

Proceed on our Journey.—The Iguana.—Matins of the Bogas.—San Pablo.—Meet with Congressmen.—Gambling.—Manner of Bedmaking on the Sand.—Rapids.—Naré.—Excursion up the River Naré.—Buena Vista.—Enter the Mountain Passes.—Madre de Dios.—Leave the River.—Singular Scenery.—Mode of Travelling. — El Sarjento. — Guaduas. — Col. Acosta. — Mr. Haldane.—Alto de Trigo.—Delays of the Baggage and Annoyances of Travel.—The Company Separate.—El Acerradero.—Facutativa.—Plain of Bogotá.—Fontivon.—Variety of Doubloons.—Reach the Capital.—Sr. Santa Maria.

24th JANUARY. After a loss of two days, our sooty crew were at last all ready for starting. On the morning of this day, at half past six o'clock, we left the port of Ocaña, when the guide and the boy who served us in the capacity of cook were missing; the former (Bishop) had of late begun to show symptoms of misrule, in making much too free with the stores of liquors, for which I had more than once reprimanded him. I immediately suspected that he had purposely taken the cook, a fine little boy, with him as a security for our not starting without him, thinking we would not leave the boy, although we might do without his guideship; for I had become tired of the drunkard, and had found him to be but of very little use to me in any respect. At the expiration of an hour they made their appearance; and it was found that Bishop had actually enticed the poor boy away, and forced him to sleep all night at Puerto Nacional, where he himself had been engaged in a drunken bout. We stopped this night at a playa, where we shot a fine wild duck, which much resembled one of the Muscovy breed. An iguana had been driven from her nest by some persons on the

playa, and had taken to the water at a place where the width of the fork could not exceed sixty yards to the high banks on the opposite side. Thither we, who were watching the foolish little animal's expertness in swimming, presumed it was going; but, instead of this, it began swimming with all its might down the current to a jutting point of the playa, where lay a tier of some dozen caymans just showing the tops of their heads and great eyes out of the water. The iguana certainly must have seen her terrible foes lying there in wait for their prey, yet it bore directly down upon the very jaws of the first in the line, which made a pass at it, but succeeded only in clipping off a piece of its long tail; still it bore onward to a second and a third of these monsters, dexterously eluding the passes of its enemies by suddenly diving below the surface just as the cayman thrust out his head to seize upon it; but the fourth proved the best marksman, or perhaps the poor iguana had become wearied out from its previous exertions, for she immediately disappeared down the throat of the voracious monster.

25th. On our way at half past five o'clock A. M. One can always judge of the humour in which these bogas commence their labours by their morning orisons to the Virgin, uttered in a loud chanting voice by one of the crew just as the poles are raised and ready to drop into the water. In these are strangely mingled blessing and cursing; and the most singular petitions, either as regarding things temporal or spiritual, are offered up. The person generally selected for this office was a short, light-limbed blackamoor from Carthagena, nicknamed "the Carthagena Devil." His effusions on these occasions were all extemporaneous. The following, which I have translated, will serve as a specimen:

"O Mary, most powerful! Blessed queen of heaven! Mother of God! pity us poor bogas. May the

stream *run up* with us this day, and may no rapids nor remolinos impede our progress!! May the white man, our patron here, give us plenty of brandy, and perhaps a little butter to fry our fish with!! Hurrah for the white patron and the pretty Indian girls of Ocaña!! Hurrah for Mary, most holy St. Joseph, and all the saints!!" This translation is as literal as possible. At the termination of each sentence they all shouted the one great Spanish oath. The language supplies no other; nor need it, for in that alone there is meaning expressive of everything that is bad and obscene. We had this day fine views of the Ocaña mountains. These mountain views were doubly appreciated after so many days' travel through low, marshy lands; yet there are many things to prevent one's enjoying fully the beautiful and novel scenery of the surrounding country, such as the unremitting attention one must constantly pay to his own person in order to pass along with but the endurance of life, comfort being entirely out of the question. There is the broiling sun when away from the boat! the heat and moschetoes when in it! fourteen bogas shouting and stamping with all their might! then the boat brushes past a tree, and a hundred or two of enraged wasps render it necessary to fall on the face and shout for assistance from the negroes, who dread them even more than the traveller himself. When they observe a nest before coming directly upon it, there is not a whisper from them until it be passed. Reached Badillo at half past two, and spent the night again at a playa.

26th. Set off at six A. M. A cloudy morning, the first we had seen since embarking at Santa Marta, and it was quite a treat. At this season we might here safely reverse the message which a French resident in London is said to have sent by a friend about departing for "la belle France," in which he desired his compliments to be given to the sun in his

own loved country. For, with equal truth of feeling, we might have said, "Commend us to the curtained canopy which o'erhangs the far-famed metropolis of old England." We stopped at night about three leagues from San Pablo, and shot two fine guacharacas, and a brace or two of wood-pigeons, very fat and delicate. Finding on the playa a large quantity of dried driftwood, my people amused themselves with building up a huge stack and then firing it. The large cane reeds, called here guaduas, blaze very freely.

27th. Off about a quarter before six A. M. Came in sight of San Pablo at half past five P. M. Here a new feature in the character of the bogas made its appearance. They refused to go into San Pablo this night, as they said they were tired, and the sun had already set. At first I could not imagine for what purpose they wished to remain in the middle of the river, when a short half hour would put them in the possession of as much rum and frolic as they could desire; but this was very soon explained, for it seems that the law allows them two days in this place, including the one in which they arrive! Here was cunning to an extreme! They wished to lie in the river all night, and then reach the town by sunrise next morning, thus gaining a day, notwithstanding they had one and all expressly stipulated with me and with Mr. Glen, at Barranquilla, not to seek even the customary rests. Farther, I had also offered them five dollars each if we should reach Honda in thirty days from starting, and ten dollars each to the two patrons. But the perverseness of these people kept them on the one hand from fulfilling their promises and engagements, and, on the other, led them to prefer a few shortlived drunken brawls to ensuring certain gain in the end. I am thus particular in stating these facts relative to the mode in which strangers are treated on this river, certainly

not for any amusement the majority of readers may derive from the perusal of them, but that the detail may be useful as a guide to others who may hereafter ascend the Magdalena. And it may be also of use to know the vast advantages they possess for travelling in their own favoured lands, and that they may the better learn to bear patiently the many trifling inconveniences which may occasionally take place to fret and annoy them at home.

I was fully resolved that these bogas should not, for this time at least, have the mastery. So, approaching the most daring of the ringleaders in my own boat, with my watch in my hand, I gave him just three minutes to resume his work, threatening that, if he persisted in his obstinacy, he should immediately be thrown into the river. Seeing eight of us well armed with a gun and pair of pistols each, and backed also by the patrons, they gave up, and we reached the village a little after sunset. We saw this day a large drove of wild hogs; but, although I followed them for a full half hour, I could not get a shot. They finally concealed themselves so well in a small thicket, that we traversed it in every direction without being able to start them again. These can only be hunted with the aid of a good dog. San Pablo consists of about 100 huts, with the usual rude edifice which serves as their place of public worship. Boats coming down the river are overhauled here for smuggled tobacco.

The place, however, is very neat and clean in its appearance. On arriving, my first steps were bent towards the house of the inspector of bogas, as he is called, for I had been led to understand that the man who held this office in San Pablo was accustomed to enforce the law which exacts from these the full performance of their duty. But this I found to be all a hoax. Neither obligations, nor letters of introduction to the first people in the

place, nor yet the full and explicit passport, as drawn up by my kind and obliging friend in New-York, the New-Grenada minister, setting forth the objects of the expedition, as being of advantage to the country, and requesting that authorities put no hinderance in my way to the capital, had any weight in the eyes of this little village alcalde, who kept a regular grog-shop, which was supported almost exclusively by those very men against whom I was lodging my complaints. Shakspeare's Dogberry is a gentleman and a scholar compared with a Magdalena alcalde. So here in San Pablo we were obliged to remain two days. As the bogas had forfeited the extra five dollars from Barranquilla to Honda, I again offered them three dollars each if they would but proceed on the way without any more of this tedious stopping; but what was three dollars to a boga, when he could remain drunk the whole of that time in San Pablo for as many reals! There were many sick people in this place; and, as soon as it became known that white strangers had arrived, our boat was crowded with supplicants begging the medicos (as they insist upon calling all foreigners of respectable appearance, meaning physicians) to go to their houses, "por amor de Dios," and administer to the relief of their sick and dying friends. Their importunity was such that I promised to call upon many of them; but told them, at the same time, that although I had an assortment of medicines to be used by any of us in cases of necessity, yet that I was no physician, nor did I dare to prescribe to any one in difficult cases. "Give us the medicines, then," they cried out, one and all; "we will run all the risk, for we know they will cure our friends." In the morning the guide and I visited several, and we found them almost all suffering from severe bilious attacks. The dreadful fever which prevails on

the Magdalena was very prevalent, as were also intermittents. What could we do? The poor creatures even prostrated themselves on their knees before us; and, bringing down the little family cross, they presented it to us, and implored us with prayers and tears to save their friends. It was truly a heart-rending scene, and I never so strongly and earnestly wished to possess a thorough knowledge of the healing art. What a cruel neglect it is on the part of government not to make some provision against this evil, which exists to such an extent as to leave whole villages and even districts of country without a single physician, or any remedies whatever save those which unassisted Nature herself affords! In some of these villages the padres (priests) keep a stock of medicines, and have some skill in diseases; and why would not this mode, reduced to general practice, be the best calculated for removing this evil, so much to be deplored? This plan was wont to be adopted in Catholic countries of old. Before we left the place we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had been able to bring about a most favourable change in a person long afflicted with dysentery (a disease very prevalent here), by means of a celebrated mixture given me by a friend, a druggist in Mobile, Ala.

It would be well for a stranger going out to the part of country I am describing, and wishing to do good when and wherever he is permitted, to carry with him a good supply of such simple medicines as may be administered in a thousand cases, with but his own good judgment to direct him. Acting on this principle, we afforded relief to some by administering slight cathartic medicines, and advising different plans of diet, better ventilation, &c., &c.

29th. A champan arrived this day at San Pablo from Mompox, having on board Col. Piñarez, a

member of the Senate, and a Congressman, with one or two others, bound for Honda. It did not lessen my displeasure towards our bogas to know that this party had left Mompox full five days later than ourselves. But it may be accounted for by considering that the colonel and his friend were natives, and, of course, quite up to the crooks and wiles of compassing their ends with the bogas. Besides this advantage, the colonel had, as his body-guard, a fierce-looking half-breed, dressed in faded uniform, and handling a rusty Tower-hill musket, the sight of which is said to have a wonderful effect upon these river gentry. It was not long before the colonel and his party introduced themselves; and, as I had not the least doubt that he would reach Honda full four days before us, I gave him in charge the letter to Col. Acosta, of Guaduas, from Mr. Mier, which that gentleman had sent by me, in order to save my being detained at the landing for mules. One of my men, while here, shot a large alligator, which measured fourteen feet in length. The villagers crowded around the dead animal, disputing about the carcass, which they wanted, in order to fry out the oil.

Early on the morning of this day, being seated in a neat little shop of a dry-goods retailer of the place, I took part in a conversation which was carried on in a very animated manner by several individuals, who were overwhelming me with questions concerning the country I had left. In the midst of this busy din of tongues, and at the first toll of a bell from the little church close by, the whole company, consisting of about eight or ten persons, started to their feet, and remained standing perfectly motionless for the space of a minute or two; then, at another signal from the bell, they all crossed themselves very devoutly; and, resuming their seats, the conversation again commenced as if nothing

had occurred to interrupt it, though they first exchanged with each other the customary "buenos dias." The occasion of all this was the elevation of the host, of which ceremony the bell gave notice.

30th. We were under weigh at half past five A. M. I was prevented from sleeping the greater part of the night by the groans and lamentations of a patron of a small champan lying near us, occasioned by his having lost all his money (seventy or eighty dollars) in gambling with the skipper of our boat: "Ay! Dios, no tengo un cuartillo," were his incessant cries, repeatedly interlarded with the usual Spanish oath. Poor wretch! here were the profits of months of labour, performed amid the scorching heats of the Magdalena, gone in a moment!!

About a league from San Pablo the boat of Colonel Piñarez came up with us; when our late refractory bogas seemed suddenly animated with new spirit, and they vigorously pushed on, determined that the stranger boat should not pass us. After holding a short consultation together, they appointed our patron, Juan de Dios, to intercede with me, and ask if, in case of their not allowing Piñarez to pass them until arrived at Honda, I would give them a reward of one dollar each. Of course, I immediately agreed to do this, as I saw by doing so I would save four days at least. It is strange to think that, but the very day before, these men had refused to take three dollars for the same service which they now voluntarily offered to do for one! We passed here a large and beautiful cocoa plantation, while the trees were loaded with fruit. At sunset we anchored alongside of a playa in company with the congressmen; having made about eight leagues this day. Our encampment consisted now of fifty persons. The moon shone out in her fullest splendour; and the colonel and his friends hav-

ing ordered a neat portable table and chairs to be brought from their boat, politely invited the whole of our company to join them, and partake of some wine and jellies; and we spent an hour in this way very pleasantly.

31st. On our voyage at half past five A. M. This day we saw for the first time a few of the roble-trees, about thirty feet high, some of them were covered completely with the most beautiful pink flowers, while others were of a saffron colour. We could see no leaves; nothing but the straight, slender trunk, with its flower-crowned top. Arriving at a little rosa (plantation) at one o'clock P. M., about three leagues from our starting-place in the morning, the old cry of "poles to cut" was raised; so we tied fast for this purpose, and had the mortification of seeing the colonel's boat wend its way onward and out of sight, which was the last we saw of her until we arrived at Honda. At this rosa, we remained all night, as, of course, was intended by the bogas. We wandered along a small canal or arm of the river for full two miles, through fine cocoa plantations; and the little huts of the possessors, which were scattered thickly along its banks, were the neatest of any I had yet seen. We plucked some very fine pineapples near one of the houses; but they charged us one real each for them, probably because we were "estrangeros" (strangers). We shot, too, some pigeons and wild turkeys.

1st February. Monday. There was no such thing as moving our bogas until twelve o'clock at noon, when the colonel's champan must have been at least eight leagues ahead of us! At night, about eight o'clock, we had a thunderstorm. The rain came rattling down upon our tents, and I was just preparing to decamp from mine, when Bishop, by spreading two blankets over the netting, kept it

from penetrating; and then, by sitting up with my mattress rolled up, and serving as a seat, I succeeded in keeping it also dry. We were now fairly between the passes of the hills, where they say showers are more or less frequent throughout the year. About three o'clock in the morning we had another, a most tremendous one, from which all our covering could not protect us. It drove us all below to take shelter in the little narrow cabin, where we remained huddled together for the remainder of the night, and were more or less encumbered with wet clothes, which luckily occasioned none of the bad consequences we very naturally anticipated.

2d. Started at quarter before six A. M. The weather still continued lowering, with occasional sprinklings of rain. We shot some fine turkeys today. The forest-trees which we saw here were generally very lofty, and alive with red and black monkeys. At night we stopped at the smallest playa we had yet seen, which could not, I am certain, have measured more than an eighth of an acre. Quite a new idea respecting the art of camp-bed making was suggested to me by witnessing the bogas' method of procuring a dry place to sleep on, notwithstanding the previous rains. They first busied themselves in scraping away the wet sand; and, when they succeeded in obtaining a dry bottom, which they did very soon, as the slight showers had not penetrated more than a few inches, they spread their mats upon it and reposed there for the night. We made only four leagues this day.

3d. On our way at half past five A. M. The river during the night had risen a great deal, reducing our small sleeping-room within still smaller compass by its near encroachment. The patron told me of several instances he had known of the river taking so rapid a rise in the night, that the

suddenly aroused sleepers on the sand had not even time to save their scanty provision of bedding. We found that the water of the river had now changed its colour from a muddy yellow hue to a dingy black, and so thick that we could not use it even for washing; the bogas, however, drank of it as heartily as ever, dipping it up as they needed it from the vessel's side. This discolouring of the water was partly explained to us when we discovered our proximity to the black stream of a river which empties itself here into the Magdalena. We were again disturbed at night by a heavy shower.

4th. Started at half past five A. M. The branch of the river which we had been following became now so shallow, that we grounded several times in endeavouring to keep our course, and were obliged finally to put back for at least half a league, and enter another branch. This greatly retarded our progress.

5th. This night the river fell in a proportion equal to its rise the previous one. So much was this the case, that it was with extreme difficulty that we got off our boats. We stopped at a very neat little rosa, called Calderon, to furnish ourselves with a new supply of plantains. The Antiochian mountains were now close before us; and the increased height and thickness of the wooded shores tended greatly to relieve us of that tedious monotony of feeling we had formerly experienced in the lower parts of the Magdalena.

6th. Off at our usual hour, half past five A. M. We passed San Bartolemi, a small Indian village, consisting of thirteen huts and a church, at half past seven A. M. The patron, Juan de Dios, told me, with an air of great solemnity, that in the hand of the image of the patron saint within the wall is placed a golden spoon which weighs one pound! On hearing this, one of my men exclaimed, "I wish I had

hold of it," which very profane ejaculation made the patron turn up his eyes with an expression of the most fixed and religious horror. At sunset we stopped at a large playa directly opposite the "Remolino Grande," which whirls round a conically-shaped bluff of some sixty feet high, where much property is said to have been lost at different times. When the river is swollen in the winter season, it must be a very dangerous place to pass. At night we were all driven below to the wretched cabin by rain and high wind.

7th. Started at six A. M.; reached the village of Garrapata at noon. There were here about the same number of huts as in San Bartolemi. At five P. M. we saw two large bongas, heavily laden, lying by at a plantain grove. They were bound up the river, and had already been two months out from Barranquilla!! The very low state of the river must have retarded their progress much; yet they were not far behind the time usually required for boats of their burden.

8th. On our way again at a quarter to six A. M. Shot two river ducks of a very fine kind. About eight o'clock A. M. the boat San Jorge stuck fast in the sand about half a mile behind us, and we despatched four of our hands to help her off. It was a wonder to me how these river pilots managed to get along without grounding more frequently than they did; for the river having so many branches and tortuous windings, and the constant changing of the channels, must have rendered its navigation a very difficult task. But I was informed by our patron that they could detect the shoals by the eye alone, and even tell, within an inch or two, the exact depth of the water on which they were. Subsequent observations convinced me of the correctness of his statements. I cannot but smile when I think of the drunken Captain R. (of Mr. Elbers's steamboat

on this river) having compasses rigged on board. This was to steer his course by in a fog, I presume, in a channel of such tortuous windings and shallowness as this!

Here, on a playa about one league from the Angostura (narrow passage), lie the remains of the steamboat El Libertador, lost through the sheer folly of her commander, who attempted a passage out of the regular route around a small island in the river. The Angostura is a rapid, the current of which, for about three quarters of a mile, runs from ten to twelve knots an hour, the Magdalena in this place narrowing to three hundred and fifty or four hundred yards in width, with bold, rocky shores, well wooded. There are several protruding rocky angles, which form remolinos more or less dangerous; but the one most to be dreaded is just at the entrance of the Angostura, in going up. Here stands a solitary house on a hill, where the bogas stopped the boats and took strong lines ashore, dragging, with much trouble, the boats around this point. "Ca—o á los Ingleses," vociferated the crew, as they experienced the difficulty of this undertaking; "quitan las cabuyas que se vayan al demonio" (d—n the English; let go the ropes, and let them go to the devil!) At hearing this ebullition of friendly feeling on their part, I had merely to point very significantly to a double-barrelled piece then in my hands; and it is astonishing what faith these fellows have in the aim of an "estrangero" (foreigner). Formerly, in the time of the patriot warfare, a small fortification stood in this place; but now there remains very little of the ruins. We observed many cannon-balls wedged into the rocks near the water's edge, which must have been fired against the fort from the opposite shore. We stopped at night at a narrow strip of embankment, which was backed by a thick wood. It seemed that these bogas were as fearless of an at-

tack from wild beasts as from alligators; for they made up a small fire of brushwood, and stretched themselves out upon the ground with all the ease and indifference imaginable, notwithstanding the little strip of sand-bank on which they lay was literally covered with the tracks of leopards and panthers.

9th. Started at five A. M.; reached Naré at nine o'clock that morning. At a short distance on this side of Naré, the river of that name flows into the Magdalena. It is a beautiful limpid stream, of considerable width at the mouth, and the water was very cool and refreshing. Naré is the great entrepot for merchandise and produce to and from the rich province of Antiochia; and yet it is the most dirty, wretched-looking place of its size on the river. It consists of about one hundred and twenty huts, and about eighteen hundred souls. The rate of provisions is nearly twice as high as in Mompox, and very often not to be had at any price. Eggs six for a real; pork three dollars per arroba; fowls four reals each, and so on. At this place we found we were again to lie by for two days; and, to crown all, the bogas had the impudence to apply to me for the dollar each which had been promised to them in case they kept up with the champan of Col. Piñarez! Of course they had forfeited it. I endeavoured to appeal to the black alcalde of the place to forward me more expeditiously; but, when I entered his house for that purpose, I found his worship already in familiar chat with the very worst of the crew, and dealing out rum to them, for he also kept an anisse shop. A stranger should beware of ever placing the least dependance upon a river alcalde, who is generally a person of the very same stamp as the bogas themselves: and should there even be found one who is willing to render assistance to you, he is deterred from doing so through fear of being maltreated by the bogas, from whose ven-

geance they have no means of defence in those isolated villages. It is only in the large cities that even-handed justice is to be expected from a Spanish alcalde. The only person of any consequence residing at this time in Naré was a coloured man named Torres. He kept a store of goods, was postmaster, with a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and was also the government agent; he did, besides, a large business in the commission and forwarding line. This person received us very kindly, and ordered his son—a young man of about twenty-two years of age, and of a complexion two or three shades darker than himself—to put us up the provisions we required. We found here, as is the case in every town and place in New-Grenada, a French apothecary, who seemed to thrive very well in his business. Indeed, all those I had yet seen seemed equally prosperous.

10th. Finding that, in the prosecution of our voyage, we *must* await the pleasure of our masters the bogas, and becoming a little used to it, as poor Pat said of hanging, Bishop, two of my men, and myself chartered a canoe, and, accompanied by a guide, set out on a little trip up the Naré, as far as the bodegas, a distance of about two leagues. We had furnished ourselves with guns, some bottles of wine, and a due proportion of cooked provisions, being determined, for one day at least, to shake off all thoughts of bogas, black alcaldes, &c., and to enjoy ourselves as we best could.

The moment we entered upon this delightful stream, the change of scenery and associations was instantaneous, and produced a magically pleasing effect. Within less than two miles up, the river narrows nearly one half. Neat little rosas line each shore at short and regular intervals, and the inhabitants appeared much better off and more cleanly clad than on the Magdalena. A fine, bright

pebbly shore reminded me much of the banks of the silvery Tweed. After advancing two miles farther, the shores rose to a height of eight hundred or a thousand feet, and, jutting in from the left-hand bank barely twenty paces, we gained the foot of a very picturesque waterfall, foaming and tumbling over a precipice of several hundred feet. But, with all our exertions, we could not reach the summit, as the sheet of water occupied nearly all the channel, and on either side were steep and slippery rocks; while farther on rose a thick forest, with underwood so matted and impenetrable as to defy all attempts to enter it. So, after many fruitless endeavours, we were fain to seat ourselves quietly down beside the basin at the foot, and enjoy the luxury of gazing upward and around upon such scenery as is rarely to be seen, and drinking in the delicious breeze created by the rush of waters. Journeying onward, the river became in many parts very shallow, with slight rapids; the lofty perpendicular shores entirely excluding the sun's rays, although at the hour of eleven A. M. We observed tracks of the danta on the white sands. It is just such haunts as these that this timid monster loves to frequent; so still and lonely! For here were no habitations; not a sound save the distant murmur of the waterfall we had just left, the wild, soft notes of the birds, and the deep, prolonged echoes of our own voices, as they died away among the everlasting hills.

When seven miles distant from Naré we reached the bodega (storehouse), a very neat brick building, the roof covered with tiles, having a house and garden attached for the accommodation of the keeper. Among a variety of merchandise which were here awaiting conveyance to the interior, I saw a two-horse pleasure-wagon of American manufacture, the body being enclosed in a very heavy box; and we were told that sixteen Indians would be re-

quired to carry it over the mountains. There are no caymans in this stream, and I could get no information as to whether trout might be caught here. We saw no game of any kind, which appeared singular in a place seemingly so well adapted for their abode.

We got back to Naré at four P. M. Fine guavas grow here, and I saw some trees bearing very large shaddock oranges. I followed a footpath, beautifully winding through a dense wood, for upward of two miles, in the direction of a place called "Sopla Viento" (blow wind), in search of game, but saw nothing save a few monkeys and river herons.

11th. Left Naré at six A. M. Made the Brasuelo de Tigre, about two leagues from Naré, at nine o'clock A. M. We had the pleasure of shooting some fine large ducks, called here quatro reales. They afford by far the most delicate eating of the duck kind that I ever met with. We made this day six leagues.

12th. On our voyage at half past five P. M., but made small progress through scenery entirely devoid of interest.

13th. Made the village of Buena Vista at half past one P. M. This is a place consisting of six very neat huts, standing in a cleared spot of about sixty acres, the shores being about ten feet high. The site of this little village I consider as next to Margarita in point of beauty. Appearances of a large ancient cemetery suggest the idea that there must have once stood on this spot a much larger town; but I could get no one to give me the least information on the subject, save that some treasures had been dug up from the old Indian graves; a thing of frequent occurrence throughout this country, where the supposed sites of habitations belonging to the former lords of the soil are eagerly sought after, and the ground excavated in

every direction for the precious stones and metals invariably deposited with the corpse of the more wealthy aborigines. A short distance beyond *this* village is the mouth of the Rio Negro, about a hundred yards wide; the water of which is very low at this season of the year, and of a deep black colour, though we found it very transparent on being dipped up into a tumbler.

14th. Started at our customary hour. During the previous night I lay for a long time awake, listening to the familiar note of a bird like that of the whippoorwill of the United States, and with fond memory leading me back to her loved haunts in the land of the "great and free;" to the country and friends who had received and cherished the wandering boy, and made him, under Providence, what he was; to the absent one of the soul's best affections, and to all the thousand and one little varied hopes and dreams of by-gone days. If any place in the world besides the close walls of a prison is calculated to cause a home-sickness to pervade the heart and weigh down the feelings, certainly it is such a voyage up the River Magdalena as I experienced in the year 1836. The sandflies were now very annoying, continuing to plague us from sunrise to sunset; but our old acquaintances, the moschetoes, had for two nights past entirely disappeared. They are seldom to be seen above Naré. Some of my people had their feet and ankles so dreadfully swollen by the previous bites they had endured, that it was impossible for them to wear either boots or shoes. This circumstance shows the necessity of screening the feet by every possible means from the attacks of these little pests. Better, surely, is it to suffer the heat and inconvenience of a heavy boot or woollen stockings, than to be afflicted even for days after leaving the river with feet frightfully swollen.

On this day the boat Joachim sprang aleak, having grounded on a pebbly bar, and two hands were required to bail her out. We could not avoid realizing by this accident the dreadful situation we would have been reduced to had our boats suffered any accident in such a wilderness as this.

As we neared the Peñon de Conejo, which is a rocky promontory, I was forcibly struck by the similarity which the view up the river bears to a part of the Hudson below West Point. There formerly stood here bodegas for the reception of goods to be conveyed by a new road to Guaduas; but, notwithstanding the shortness of the period that had elapsed since the loss of the two steamboats, not a bodega or road is now to be discovered; the former being demolished, and the latter entirely choked up. Enterprise in this country is, I believe, doomed uniformly to die on the very threshold. No people welcome more loudly the commencement of projects for improvement than the inhabitants of this portion of New-Grenada. They in the end, however, fall off so gradually and imperceptibly, that one begins to grow doubtful whether his senses may not have deceived him in regard to all they uttered and protested in the commencement. A small island, the exact resemblance of a heart, lies in the centre of the river here. Near the upright surface of the Peñon de Conejo (Rabbit Rock), a striking resemblance of a person, seemingly sitting down near the top of it, is plainly discernible, as well as a likeness of a friar of Francisco, both of which are caused by fissures and tufts of stunted shrubs. Flocks of screaming parrots were hovering about their nests in the rock. We succeeded in stopping a leak in our boat which threatened to delay us, and all went on very well, with the exception of Bishop complaining of dysentery, and a boga indisposed with fever and ague;

Bishop drank incessantly, and this may well account for his sickness. All my precautions to keep liquor out of his way were unavailing. We stopped for the night at a playa covered entirely with small pebbles, intermixed with various coloured jaspers, blood-stones, &c. We found, also, a few carnelians.

The very base of the hills which form the Bogotá ridge was now at our feet, the bed of the river continually straitening. We all wandered far up the playa from the boats, hunting pebbles, and enjoying one of the most delicious sunsets I ever witnessed. The thermometer stood at 78° at sunset. The air was perfumed with odoriferous plants; and on this evening most truly might it have been said of our little party, that the memory of the trials we had experienced on the lower part of the river, of its excessive heats, of the clouds of moschetoes and sandflies, and all our other miseries, was about being obliterated from our thoughts, excepting the two or three who in swollen feet and ankles still bore about with them occasional twitching remembrancers of the past.

About nine o'clock, just as we were all snugly housed under our toldas, a short but violent thunderstorm drove us all to our feet; and again, when this was well over, and the skies, as we thought, gave fair promise of quiet and serenity, and we were once more comfortably lodged, a second storm burst over us, which continued, with but little abatement, nearly the whole night. This induced us to believe that wet weather without moschetoes and heat was in no ways preferable to dry weather coupled with these annoyances. The thunderclaps created a most tremendous bellowing among the hills, the reverberations continuing many seconds.

16th. On our way at half past five A. M. The

scenery became more varied and picturesque every mile we ascended. The shores in some places being formed of huge ledges of rocks, and quite perpendicular, appeared like representations of decayed forts, ruined towers, &c., while their bases were worn into an innumerable variety of shapes by the strength of the current, mixed as it is with great quantities of sand. P. M., made the first of the Vueltas de Madre de Dios. These are abrupt turnings in the river at the place called by the Jesuits "Mother of God," where they formerly, before their expulsion, enjoyed large possessions extending to Honda, where their college was situated. The land here, you may be sure, is of the very best quality, as these people are sound judges in this as well as in other worldly matters. It reaches back from the river in a tract mostly without hill or break in its smooth, level surface, at an elevation of some fifteen feet. Here, indeed, under a more enlightened and liberal government, might the most fastidious be tempted to settle quietly down; for all that is rich and grand in scenery or delicious in climate is here to invite them. The two seasons of rain and drought, so uniformly experienced both above and below this part of the country, do not take place here in the same regular succession; but fine showers are more or less frequent throughout the whole year. I observed, also, that one or two streamlets crossed these fine lands.

We now began to encounter what are called "chorros" or rapids in the river. The first of any consequence was at the last bend, just as we gained a view of the long-looked for bodegas of Madre de Dios. It is very severe labour for the bogas to ascend so strong a current by means of simple setting-poles. Frequently we did not gain a single boat's-length in ten minutes. Every man of us laid strong and stout hold of the poles, while the

knowledge that our long and painful voyage would terminate with the chorro in question added almost supernatural strength to our efforts. Sunset saw us safely moored at the bodega landing-place, which event we signalized by a feu-de-joie from a general discharge of all our firearms. The banks here were thirty feet high; and the country around was cleared for some hundred acres.

We preferred landing here to the bodegas opposite Honda, as we thereby avoided several very troublesome rapids; and this situation is said to be much more agreeable.

Our first care was to have all our stores and luggage immediately removed up the bank and deposited in the storehouse of the place; after which we were delighted to find ourselves once more seated under the roof of something like a Christian-built dwelling; a very excellent one it was, too, when contrasted with most others of the same class in this country. The building was of one story, and composed of rammed earth, with a tile-covered roof; it consisted of four rooms, besides the very spacious and convenient part occupied as a storehouse. One of the rooms was used as a sort of retail store; the others serve for the accommodation of travellers like ourselves; and detached from the premises is a kitchen built of split cane and thatched; which, with a shed for mules, comprises all the houses within sight. A Bogotá merchant had arrived from Jamaica a day or two before us, and occupied the best room in the gable end of the building. Owing to this, we were obliged, after making a repast from our own stores, to spread our mattresses in the largest room, which had a wicket gate in lieu of a door. Through this, lizards and the hundred other crawling things that abound here gain free admission. I was awakened several times during the night by the shrill outcries

of the women as a harmless, yet icy-fleshed lizard crawled over their hands or face.

17th. What a scene at sunrise was here presented for the rich, mellow pencillings of a Claude! The mighty Magdalena at my feet rushing onward to the ocean in her dark sweeping course; to the right a succession of undulating, wood-crowned hills; to the left lay our route to the capital, a few conical-shaped hills plainly indicating that our passage over this ridge of Andes would partake much more of mountain than of prairie travel. But a little to the left, in facing the river, and as seen from the very threshold of the bodegas, is a truly grand and novel sight. I stood gazing upon it for upward of an hour without being wearied, and could still have continued gazing and indulging my fancy with picturing new beauties in the prospect before me. A huge rocky hill rises out from the midst of an evergreen prairie, the highest peak reaching probably to the height of two hundred feet, and the whole circumference at the base being about a quarter of a mile. The ruins of an ancient monastery, built upon some isolated rocks, is the nearest idea I can give of its appearance. A species of creeping plant, not unlike the ivy, covers just enough of the whole to render the illusion complete. There is apparently a low wall running the whole circuit of what would seem the building, partly tumbled down, with here and there a loophole for defence in perilous times. Three or four short square towers flank different points; while high in the very centre of what appears to have been the great chapel, or body of the building, towers up a goodly portion of a once square and strongly-built steeple or dome, the ivy-plant hanging in thick festoons all around and above it, forming resemblances to Gothic windows, dilapidated walls, and dark figures of cowled monks; all together a sight most wonderful

to behold, and which no attempt at description can give any idea of its beauty, and peculiarly singular and picturesque appearance!

We found it impracticable to purchase provisions of any kind here. A little guarápo, a drink made from the sugarcane, was all we could procure; and we were obliged to send to Honda for beef, and even fish, although, with a net, they might be caught at the very door. A fine place of refreshment, truly, for a poor wretch just from the Magdalena! And yet, to read and hear of this bodega, one is actually tempted to believe it "una fonda donde hay cualquiera cosa le gusta;" a "place of entertainment, where everything that you wish is to be had." We found only a young man in the bodega, who acted as superintendent during the absence of an older person then sick; an Indian woman-cook, and I believe there were about twenty "peones" (labourers), employed by the company who own the bodegas in clearing land and cultivating sugarcane. The nights we passed here were spent in the most delicious repose, with not a moscheto to annoy us!

20th. We set out to-day at eleven A. M. Notwithstanding my precautions in sending letters in advance to Guaduas, containing all the instructions necessary for having mules in readiness at this place for our immediate use, not one made its appearance until the night previous to this date. Although the land-travelling was altogether preferable to that of the river, still, in one point of view, we felt not the least change for the better; I mean in regard to our conductors, the muleteers, who chattered and disputed, like so many magpies, from early daybreak until we set off. We had then only twenty-three beasts instead of the twenty-eight ordered; and for these there were two different owners, who were regularly pitted against each other, quarrelling about the size of bales and trunks, each party being fearful

lest his opponent's load should weigh one single pound less than his own. Two hundred and fifty pounds weight is the quantum regulated by law which each beast is allowed to carry; a cargo of this weight is divided into two equal parts, which are slung on each side of the animal, and secured by strong thongs of twisted green bark or hide. Not unfrequently, however, the whole weight is contained in one bulk, placed on the mule's back; and, by an extra price being paid, they will even increase that weight considerably.

We were at length fairly started, our whole party mounted on eight mules and three horses. I would here strongly recommend all travellers going this same route to carry with them, as a most useful appendage to their other equipments, a good saddle! for nine times out of ten you are forced to pay an enormous hire for one which scarcely deserves the name, and which is sometimes actually worse than the bare back of the animal, were it not that it answered the purpose of holding on to in this rugged journey. Some of the girths were of the inner bark of a certain tree. Col. Acosta had the goodness to send two very fine ones for my own use and that of Bishop; but we gave them up to the poor women of our party, two of whom, after much persuasion, we induced to mount "al caballero," as they had never been on horseback before, and which would have been by far the safest mode for them, even in a level country. I also hired two extra peones to run by their side, in case of accident in ascending or descending any precipitous parts of the road. For each beast I paid three dollars to go from the bodegas to Guaduas, which was precisely double the usual charge! And this is invariably the way in which travellers, who, like myself, may be ignorant of the rates paid on the different routes, are imposed upon. Besides this charge, the use of saddles

to Guaduas, a distance of only fifteen miles, was another dollar each!

The road is very level and good for a short distance above Honda, winding through thick woods and occasional naked valleys.

Approaching Honda, the road runs close to the river's bank; we had then a fine view of that town, which lies on the opposite side, and is gained from this place by means of an awkward sort of ferry-boat, champan-built, which is paddled across a very swift current by two negroes. The most rapid fall of the river is just below this ferry, and directly abreast of the town, where, owing to the low state in which the river then was, we could easily discern the black peaks of several huge stones in the centre of the current. The falls make quite a deafening noise. The whole appearance of Honda is much in keeping with that of some old English or German settlements in Europe, being built principally of granite and limestone; but as we did not cross over at this time, but continued our course to Bogotá, a full description of the place is deferred for another part of this volume.

At the first rocky descent in our way we all alighted, with the exception of one of the women, who happened to be in advance of the party, and whose mule kept on with her in spite of the out-cries of the muleteer, who was too far behind to be of any service. However, she got to the bottom in much shorter time, and with a great deal more ease to herself, than we did who were on foot, as, in leading the animals by their short bridles, and endeavouring to keep in advance of their footsteps, we oftentimes stumbled; whereas these sure-footed brutes never miss a single step, always planting their fore feet in hollows formed in the solid rock by dint of their constant travelling. At night we slept at a hut on the roadside, spreading a field-

bed on the earthen floor. Here we encountered a new species of torment, in the shape of a small black bug, which tenanted the mud walls of the building, whose bite continued very painful for several days, and even at the expiration of six months from this date I observed small reddish-coloured spots on the backs of the hands, caused by the bites of these insects.

21st. Started again at sunrise. The narrow road led over one of the most rugged and picturesque countries in the world. We went up one mountain and down another, but were still conscious of gradually attaining considerable elevation above the sea. We commenced, now, the steep and fatiguing ascent of the "Sarjento" mountain, which has an elevation of 8800 feet above the sea. The labour of the poor mules, under a sun of about 88° in the shade, was dreadful. In some of the steepest parts many of us dismounted and drove the animals on before. When about midway the path winds zigzag up the hillside, and in many parts the mules had to make a leap of about three feet and a half in order to land on the next little platform formed out of the rock, and there stopped a moment to breathe previous to making another leap. In order to attend to the baggage, I kept in the rear of the party, and, in looking upward, could perceive the front man in our ranks at least three hundred feet above me in an almost perpendicular direction, while the total unguardedness of the way, which had neither fence nor protection of any kind, and while the steps of the mules were actually within one half foot of the brink of a precipice which it was fearful to look down upon, impressed me most deeply with a sense of our novel and exciting situation. But now let me speak of the summit itself of this noble mountain. Not one of us, I think, will ever forget the feelings of awe, delight, and wonder which we

experienced as we suddenly stopped our mules and gazed around. For leagues the eye wandered over a close and constant succession of large and small conical-shaped hills, whose sides presented an aspect similar to that of the ploughed sea in a storm, and were clothed with wood and verdure to their very summits. The Magdalena, which now appeared like a small, golden-coloured stream, sparkling in the sunshine before us, still pursued the same tortuous track as heretofore. Little spots of waving sugarcane or Indian maize were scattered here and there on every hand, adorning the sunny sides of these myriad mountains, while the small dotted huts of the owners seemed to hang out in bold relief like so many swallow's nests under the sheltering eaves. In the middle of many of these cornfields we observed small raised platforms, upon which were mounted little Indian children, shouting at the very top of their lungs in order to frighten away the flocks of greedy paroquets, which often devour whole fields of maize in an incredibly short time. It is very probable that these birds are even more annoying to the farmer here than are the wild pigeons in the United States. "Ah! ladrones! picarones del mundo!" (Ah! robbers! thieves of the world!) were among some of the epithets we heard applied by the young Indians to these green-feathered gentry.

On the top of the "Sarjento" the road is extremely level and fine; and about two miles before reaching the rocky descent into the beautiful plain of Guaduas, the huts of the small planters are very neat and cleanly compared with those in the valley, having a slight air of domestic comfort about them, a circumstance of rather rare occurrence here. The land appeared very rich, of a fine black mould, with plenty of small timber. We crossed two or three clear little rivulets, which ran murmuring away into

the depths of the valley through a thick short moss, which grew abundantly all around. For a few roods in length, the road, just here, ran along a knife-like ridge. This is just before attaining the very centre of the summit, and does not exceed six yards in breadth; a rather dangerous place, methought, for one of our spirited Northern horses to caper upon.

The first view of the neat, quiet village of Guaduas was very cheering, as it appeared to us lying in a small, fertile plain, surrounded on all sides by a perfect amphitheatre of hills. Entering the valley, we saw sweet oranges growing in all directions; and then journeyed over a large, grassy common, covered with fine-looking cattle, and crossed the limpid little river of Guaduas by a ford. A neat cane bridge is here thrown over for the use of foot-passengers, and it may be used also for mules in times of heavy freshets. A short street brought us safe to the hospitable mansion of the well-known Colonel Acosta. This gentleman most heartily welcomed me, while my people were conducted to a very neat house which he had hired for the purpose, and there they found a fine dinner prepared. I dined with the Señor Acosta at his own house, where I met a younger brother of his. The welcome which was given me was truly a Highland one; and I never discussed a bottle of wine with more exhilarated spirits than on this occasion. It seemed as if we had at last got into Christian hands, and a climate which rivalled that of Eden itself, while all thoughts of the trying and gloomy past were rapidly fading away from the memory.

22d. At sunrise I was awakened by the confidential servant of the colonel, who told me that a horse was saddled and awaited me for a little ride out to the colonel's sugar-estate, as had been proposed and acceded to the previous evening. I

found, indeed, that a truly fine animal of the colonel's own raising had been prepared for my use; and that hospitable gentleman himself was just ordering in the morning's cup of strong coffee, a thing rarely omitted in this country. We rode along the same street through which we had entered the day before, turning off to the left when about midway over the common. On crossing the river, a by-path led us through a grove of guava and other trees. Then immerging into a cleared plain, which was a part of the colonel's estates, we galloped forward to the sugar-mills, about a mile from Guaduas. I observed on our way several caoutchouc-trees, from which the India-rubber is manufactured. The sugar-mills were of wood, and appeared very badly constructed as regarded the ease of the poor mules employed in them. Every year a greater or less number are entirely incapacitated for any other use. The boilers and coolers were excellently arranged; and the loaf sugar, which I saw in cans, was of a very fair and good quality. Indeed, Guaduas is more famed for its fine sugars than any other portion of New-Grenada, the Señor Acosta's estate in particular.

We rode also into several fields, where people were employed in both cutting and planting the cane. On our return, the colonel stopped his horse at the doors of several of the little straggling buildings on the estate, the inmates of which all seemed most happy to see him. At one place he would relight his segar; at another he would inquire kindly after some one sick; at a third would leave directions about work, and so on. I recollect once asking a peon here "if he knew the colonel;" to which he replied, "Si, señor; todo el mundo conocen al señor colonel" (Yes, sir; everybody knows the colonel). True, indeed, was this assertion, in regard, at least, to Guaduas, where the worthy colonel fills

the station of a patriarch of old; and this is the case in more senses, too, than one, if report speaks truly, as certain fac-similes of his well-known face are frequently to be seen in the streets of Guaduas. But no disgrace is in this place attached to the offspring of a bachelor; nor even does the knowledge of the fact ever call up a blush to any fair cheek, especially if that bachelor chance to be the merry colonel. But my friend is now in the wane of life; and, no doubt, performs some hearty penances in consequence of by-gone delinquencies.

Guaduas is very regularly and neatly built; the streets are generally paved, and run into a square in the centre of the town, where stands a rudely-constructed brick church, not yet completed. Nor is it likely to be very soon, merely for the want of the "needful," as Colonel Acosta told me. The houses are generally much like those of a fishing village in Scotland; the walls being composed of rammed earth, whitewashed over, and the roofs thatched. There were only two or three dwellings with two stories. The old convent of San Francisco is of excellent mason-work, and stands on a gentle eminence close to the river, a small part of the building being now occupied as a school; the government troops are also quartered here, as they have occasion to pass through the town. Guaduas contains about 5000 inhabitants, whose occupations are not very varied, consisting either in cultivating cane, making straw hats, or providing mules and horses for the conveyance of goods to and from Bogotá. The straw hats made here are very pretty, and manufactured of all colours and shapes.

Sunday is their day for market, which is always well attended. The majority of traders consists of women, who all wear the same fashioned straw hats as the men. They are, generally speaking,

very pretty; figures quite en bon point; and, if the expression of their faces speak a true language, they are very happy and contented with their different lots. The dress both of males and females partakes of the styles and materials worn both in the hotter and colder portions of their country. The men wear trousers reaching to the heel, and a very short white jacket, the feet being cased in a sort of sandal, made from a grass which grows there, the small portion only which covers the great toe being made of canvass. These they call "apargátas." The women wear only one upper garment, which is white, and made to fit close around the neck; while those who can afford it superadd a long gauze or thin white muslin shawl, which, with the hat and blue stuff petticoat, completes the dress.

They make here very pretty spoons from the orange and some other fancy wood, which are sold at fifty cents the dozen. The market is well supplied with potatoes, maize, rice, plantains, fruits, and butcher meats. Potatoes were a rich treat to us, not having tasted one since we left Santa Marta.

The river upon which Guaduas stands is a great acquisition to the town, the water being as clear as the finest spring, and yet very soft. In bathing in it one's teeth fairly chatter. Its bed is entirely composed of huge stones, and the banks are lined with the most beautiful overhanging trees; and some writers have affirmed that trout are found in this river. But this is not the case. If you ask a native, he will readily answer you in the affirmative; but as trout are not known among them, even by name, you must always affix the word fish to make him understand you. Therefore his assertion may apply, perhaps, to a small species of fish between the eel and the trout, such as is sold in the Bogotá market. On washing days the banks

are lined with women, who are not over chary in avoiding the exposure of their persons while employed at their work. Our endeavours to avoid them seemed to cause quite as much surprise on their part as did their appearance on ours!

I have no words wherewith to describe fully the deliciousness of the climate we now experienced; the thermometer scarcely ever varying more than two degrees during the season, and during my residence it stood the same within a degree or two, ranging from 75 to 76°.

The house of Colonel Acosta is admirably adapted for the climate, having a wide open corridor extending round a small square court in the interior, the floors flagged with large red bricks, and rows of pillars resting on a low wall, which forms the area. The parlours and best rooms open in on two sides, the kitchens and a storehouse on another, and the stables in the rear. Always during dinner we had the music of two gamecocks, which were chained up by the legs on the wall of the courtyard in our immediate vicinity, as the table was set in the area; so that, when the prisoners kept their shrill clarions in play, we had the full advantage of the melody. It appeared that this custom of keeping fighting-fowls prevailed much among the upper classes of the republic during the administration of their patron Bolivar, when the English were so high in favour; but of late years it has greatly fallen off. Colonel Acosta himself keeps a public store in one part of his house, and it grieves me to say that he is not reputed as wealthy as formerly; for a warmer hearted and more hospitable gentleman no country can boast of, while every foreigner of any respectability at all is sure to find a home at his house, and an able and willing counsellor in himself. Foreign visiters generally leave some handsome memento be-

kind them as a small testimony of their grateful sense of the debt they owe him. But the truth is, the good colonel is devoured out of house and home by his own mean countrymen, who make as free at his table as at a common hotel, without the slightest sense of shame or fear. Situated as he is on the great and, indeed, only road between the Magdalena and the capital, his very vitals are preyed upon by travelling congressmen, fellows with epaulettes, and twopenny merchants, all of whom the kind colonel receives with open arms; while, at the same time, he must be aware that, if he should ever wish to test these persons' boasted friendship and gratitude by the slightest appeal to their pockets or good services, the bubble would burst in a moment. I wonder he does not try a wry face for once, for the purpose of seeing the pilfering rascals scamper away!

To give some idea of the cheapness of living in Guaduas, I would state that, for the use of a well-built house with five rooms, a kitchen, and stable, with excellent board for ten individuals, cost only about three dollars per day; and I presume that a regular hand at driving tight bargains might have got off for fifty cents less, still leaving all well paid; for this sum there was provided for breakfast beef-steak, coffee, eggs, omelets, potatoes, bread, and a meat stew; for dinner, several dishes in addition to the above, and in the evening excellent chocolate.

Bread is the only bad article here, owing to the miserable mode of grinding and bolting the flour. It is black-coloured, and full of sand and husks. The fault cannot be in the grain itself, for I never saw finer wheat than the sample shown me, which was grown on the plains of Bogotá! Indeed, the greatest part of the meal and flour is ground after the old Scripture mode, that of two flat stones turned by women.

23d. As we had resolved to remain for a little in this delightful part of the country in order to recover from our fatigue, as well the better to prepare our heated blood for an advance into the upper and colder latitudes, Bishop and I sat out, on two fine mules furnished by the colonel, to pay a brief visit to a Scotch gentleman named Haldane, who worked a fine estate at a place called Palmar, not more than one and a half hour's ride from Guaduas. Mr. Haldane, having heard that foreigners had arrived, left a pressing invitation that we should call upon him. We ascended a very precipitous hill after leaving the plain, and then another brought us directly upon the house itself, which stands on the very top of a fine, fertile mountain. A great part of the road lay through majestic and picturesque woods. Among other trees, I saw the kind from which the article called "dragon's blood" is extracted. Mr. Haldane received us most kindly; we found him engaged with his cattle, dressed in a neat Highland bonnet, with the machete of the country buckled on at his side. His appearance, with the open, smiling welcome and hearty shake of the hand I received, made me, for a moment, almost forgetful of the strange land in which I now was. Mr. Haldane expressed his regrets that he could not at this time introduce us to his lady, as she had just been confined; but added that both the mother and her little South American were doing well. In the course of conversation over some excellent Madeira, it came out that Mr. Haldane's birthplace was very near my own, and that his good lady, as well as himself, were well acquainted with my relatives in Scotland. This discovery afforded me a great deal of pleasure. To meet with those who not only speak our language, but also know our friends, in a country wild and strange as this, cannot but ever produce such feel-

ings of gratification as I on that occasion experienced. "After this," said I to Mr. Haldane, "I never will despair of meeting a countryman or an acquaintance wherever I may go; for, surely, the very last place I should have looked for such would have been here among the rugged peaks of the Andes." We sat down to a dinner of fine fresh mutton, killed on the estate, with as good potatoes as I ever ate. I shall give a full description of Mr. H.'s estate in another part of this volume. Mr. Haldane insisted upon our remaining all night with him, which, he said, would much better prepare us for our journey to Bogotá, as it was several degrees cooler here than at Guaduas; we acceded to his proposition, and did, in truth, find it much cooler; so cool, indeed, that I piled upon myself every article of apparel within reach in order to keep my body moderately warm. The following morning was very foggy and raw on this peak, much like the weather during the latter part of autumn in Scotland. After a hearty drink of new milk, we bade adieu to our kind and gentlemanly host, and reached Guaduas at nine A. M.

26th. The hour of noon saw us all once more under moving array; the balance of our baggage not having yet arrived, we intrusted it to the safe forwarding of Colonel Acosta, from whom I parted with feelings of such sincere regret as every stranger must experience who has had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Immediately on getting clear of the town, we commenced the steep and rugged ascent of the mountain called the "Alto de Trigo." Formerly, under the old Spanish dynasty, it must have been firmly paved with large flintstone; but now, what is left of it is sadly dilapidated, and, in many parts, altogether removed. A short distance up this mountain we met a party of peones bearing down to Guaduas the corpse of a man who had died suddenly

at a place near by. The body was borne along in its usual apparel, stretched out upon a single plank, without so much as a napkin thrown over the ghastly features. Upon meeting us, they made a dead halt directly in the middle of the narrow road, and all began to clamour forth a "limosna por amor de Dios" (alms for the love of God). Until this was received, they would not edge one step out of the way that we might pass them. A most ready mode this for obtaining charity!! Arrived at the summit, we had the same fine view of Guadnas and its lovely valley as we had enjoyed from the Sarjento on the opposite side, the road descending from which we could distinctly trace out in all its windings, a bright red earth forming one part, and a light gray rock the other. We only gained two leagues this day; for, arriving at a little "venta" at a place called "Cune," and finding our baggage-mules did not follow, we concluded that it would be our best plan to remain there for the night, although bare mats spread on the floor had to supply the want of a more comfortable place of rest, as all our bedding was behind.

Here we procured some bread and chocolate, having brought a few fine cold roast fowls in our haversacks; a wise precaution, which should be adopted by every traveller in these parts, there being but miserable accommodations on the road; and often, after buying a fowl or something else, and ordering it to be cooked, it will be served up in such a state, that, hungry as one may be, it would be impossible to taste it! Once, when a lad, in Russia, I thought their dishes were bad enough; but they were a treat when compared with those in New-Grenada, filled and seasoned as they were with hog's-lard and cumin-seed, and coloured to a most sickly yellow with a pod called achote. When in this venta I observed a fine-looking kind of sausage hanging up, and ordered it to be broiled, superintending the culinary

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process in person; then I had it dished, while my delighted orbs of vision followed the direction of the knife, which immediately divided in twain the much-prized morsel; but oh, horror of horrors! my delicious anticipations all vanished with that one fell stroke; for it revealed to me the fact that this, too, had been plentifully besprinkled with the always-used and never-failing cumin-seed!

27th. About eight o'clock A. M., as the baggage had not yet arrived, I judged it best to push on ahead the body of the people, as by this means the women could ride more slowly and with greater comfort. I directed them to await me at an early hour in the afternoon, should I not overtake them before. Bishop then returned to see what cause had delayed the baggage, while one of the Poles and my lad Chauncey remained with me. During this leisure I picked up some beautiful specimens of quartz crystals, a heavy vein of which seemed to run across the road. At one o'clock Bishop came up with the mules and baggage, when the muleteers made out a bungling story about their backwardness in reaching us. The probability was, that once fairly losing sight of us in advance, they concluded it best to enjoy another frolic in the town on the remains of their advance money; for Bishop found them at a little venta not one third of the way up the Alto de Trigo. Seeing we were to be thus detained so late, I sent off, an hour before Bishop came up, the Pole, with a bag of provisions, to rejoin the people, and detain them until we came up with the baggage; but we saw nothing more of them the whole day; and a heavy thunderstorm coming up, Bishop, the lad, and I stopped for the night at a miserable little hut, where it was out of the question to obtain even the staple commodity of the country, chocolate. During the night it rained heavily, pouring down upon us through the wretched straw roof,

and driving us to seek protection from corner to corner. Muleteers, old women, children, and all, bivouacked on the same dirty earthen floor together! The only light afforded us, by which we made up our beds, was from burning the dried leaves of the maize, which employed a little girl constantly to keep it up. It seems to be their lot in this country to be tormented with some or other annoying little animal. Moschetoes, sandflies, and gallinippers are not troublesome here; but their place is well supplied by whole hosts of fleas, of which, I was told, Bogotá was the capital!

28th. Sunday. Up and on our way at daybreak. I did not get two hours sleep all night, battling incessantly with the fleas that were about me in myriads. Reached the village of Villeta at twelve o'clock. It is a small town situated on a narrow plain, the whole presenting a miniature view of Guaduas, though several degrees hotter. The glass at this hour stood at 82° in the shade. We crossed the river Villeta a short distance beyond the village. This is a really beautiful stream in the dry season; but it is said to be very turbulent, and sometimes dangerous to ford, in the rainy months. A fragile sort of cane bridge is thrown over it, but it is rarely trusted with loaded mules, it being usual for them to swim across, after a division of their loads, by placing the bales by turns on the animals' backs. At the time we crossed the water nearly reached the horses' flanks. Sometimes, after very heavy showers, travellers await the falling of the river, as in the course of two or three hours it is generally reduced so as to enable them to pass in perfect safety. We now found some parts of the road very good, and a constant succession of beautiful and novel scenery kept the mind awake and entertained. Settlements were not very numerous. In all we passed through they sell chicha, guarrapo, and

brandy of the country. Chicha is made from the grain of the maize, and strongly fermented, being altogether the filthiest-looking draught one can well look upon. Yet there were some of my party who could already drink it with much gusto, even among the women! It has about the same inebriating qualities as ale. They never press it from the lees, but use it thick and of a dirty yellow colour, so as constantly to remind me of the water of the Magdalena.

We still heard of our people as being ahead, but not from one single eminence could we catch a glimpse of them. We stopped to eat our breakfast at a house situated on the last mountain before descending to the plain of Bogotá, called the "Acerradero." We found here the best fare on the whole road. Travellers should make it a point to eat one of the three meals at it in passing, and in leaving Bogotá they should make this the halting-place on their first day's journey. Here we had breakfast "segun el costumbre de los Ingleses" (in the English manner), who, as our host told us, all honoured his house in passing. This man keeps a store or shop for provisions, and cultivates quite an extensive tract of excellent ground. His was the neatest plantation I had yet seen on the Bogotá road. The weather was too cold here for growing cane, but they raise excellent wheat and potatoes.

We were now about on a level with the Bogotá plain, and found it necessary to wear once more a cloth coat. It was very misty and chilly as we ascended this mountain, and we thought we might now bid adieu to the idea of again seeing thermometers at 90° for some time to come.

When the man of the house just mentioned announced that the bill for supplying three hearty eaters with an excellent breakfast of eggs, coffee, beef, &c., only amounted to four reals (fifty cents), I actually stared at him in utter astonishment.

In ascending, the road was very bad in many places; yet, on the whole, we found it much easier than the ascent of the Sarjento. In the rainy season, however, either ascent or descent must prove severely troublesome, if not a little dangerous, on account of the smooth, clammy soil of which the road is composed, although a short part of it has a ruined pavement like that of the Alto de Trigo. It not unfrequently snows here. We overtook a drove of mules and oxen, each beast laden with molasses of the country. The general mode of conveying all the country-made liquids is in ox-hides, sewn up into a square form, with a mouth at one corner. The drivers sadly belabour the poor animals in the steepest ascents; and "arriba!" (up) is loudly vociferated, with the accompaniment of an Indian whoop. Once fairly on the summit of this mountain, we had a no very distant view of the plain. The short descent into which, as contrasted with the steepness of the way we had passed, assured us that we were then riding on very lofty ground.

At two P. M. we reached the village of Facutativa, a miserable hole, the mud walls of which in many places retained the original black colour. Here was a church and an attempt at a square, where we observed some blackguard-looking fellows practising the throwing of the lasso over a post in front of the church. Here I found, at last, my foolish people, who had spent a most wretched night, without beds or bedding, in this cold, filthy place. We soon had an immense rabble gathered about us, principally men; and, certainly, a worse set of ill-formed, brandy-distorted features I never witnessed. They subsist chiefly in this place by breeding and herding the large droves of half-wild cattle which we saw spread out in every direction on these fertile plains. Pushing our way through this mob, we entered the paved courtyard of the best-

looking house in the place, the owner of which was a large proprietor of cargo mules. Here we had a sort of Spanish dinner, having bribed the cook to forget the hog's-lard and cumin-seed.

The fear that something might happen to my people journeying on before, not one of them being able to articulate a word of Spanish, had caused me, unwittingly, again to hurry on ahead of the baggage, of which circumstance these eye-serving muleteers had made use to turn to the same advantage as at Guaduas! So here, without our beds, we were again obliged to pass another night of cold and misery.

The nearest approach to a bedstead in this large house was a rickety trundle affair, with a board bottom; the three poor women upon this spread their blankets, of which each had one for a saddle-cover; this, with two or three old ruanas from the mistress of the house, constituted all their covering. I offered even two dollars for a bed or hammock, but only obtained the constant response made to every inquiry of the sort, of "No hay." We saw the dirty-looking men of the place spread out sheepskins for themselves in a corner, upon which, after binding a napkin round the head, and drawing a ruana closely about them, they stretched themselves out, and immediately a loud snoring betokened the heaviness of their slumbers.

How I envied these people the comfort of this temporary forgetfulness! as, after many endeavours to fall asleep, finding it impracticable, I got up from the hard deal table upon which I had been lying, with my saddle to serve me as a pillow, and passed the remainder of the night in walking about in the paved courtyard! After all, the table and saddle were not so very bad, had it been but at Honda or Guaduas; but in this misty, raw climate, with the glass standing at 56°, while at the previous night's

quarters it was at 71°, rendered our situation deplorable enough. The mule patron told me that the inn, which he designated "La Botella," would have suited us much better; but I afterward learned that "the Bottle" inn had not a whit better recommendations to patronage.

1st March. Monday. Our whole baggage being now with us, we procured an early breakfast, and started off about nine o'clock A. M. in high spirits for the capital. The road to the city, from the moment you enter the plain, is as wide as a European turnpike, having on each side a ditch and turf dike for the purpose of confining the cattle. Our patron told us that it was also intended as a bar against smugglers. But this must be perfect nonsense; for, after crossing the river by the bridge at Fontivon, the city might be entered in fifty different directions if one were disposed to try.

As we travelled onward, low scudding clouds swept down the sides of the Acerradero, reaching even to our very feet, and enveloping us in a mist through which it was impossible to see far in advance. We met many persons on horseback, apparently on a ride of pleasure from the city. They all of them had their faces muffled up with a handkerchief, the reason of which was explained to us by our patron's telling that the air on these plains generally had the effect of producing painful blotches on the face and lips; and he advised us to use the same precautions. But we laughed and rode on; for which carelessness the whole of the party, as he forewarned us, suffered more or less after our arrival in the capital. We overtook the first cart I had seen since leaving Santa Marta. It had broad, low wheels, of single blocks of wood, and was drawn by two powerful and beautifully-shaped bulls, the ox never being used here. The load in

the cart consisted of a large tierce of crockery, brought all the way from Honda bodegas to the mouth of the plain by an Indian on his back; and, when thus far on its way, this method was used for conveying it to the city; the weight was six and a half arrobas, or one hundred and sixty-two and a half pounds. I afterward saw, during my residence in Bogotá, a cargo of two hundred pounds weight which had been brought the same distance by an Indian girl, with but the occasional assistance of a fat, lazy "inamorato" of hers.

We saw Indians ploughing with a one stilted plough, composed entirely of wood. But the Spaniards, and all their descendants in every quarter of the world, are, and ever will be, a primitive and anti-improving people. The land here is extremely rich, and is divided into plots of immense size. Frequently herds of fifty cattle or upward are seen running together in almost as wild a state as if beyond the control of man; and each owner, when he wishes to lasso one for market, easily singles out his own, by means of a private mark put upon it when a calf. We saw a band of seven or eight individuals employed in this very way. They were all mounted on fine-looking horses, though sadly accoutred; most of them without saddles, and having no bridle save the end of the lasso which is used for catching the bulls. They had penned up a drove of some hundred head into a corner, where the ditch of the great road and a very high-railed post fence formed an angle; there they singled out those they wanted, and suddenly opening out so as to make a lane for them to pass, three of the animals were firmly secured by the horns before ten bounds had been gained. The lasso-thrower retains the most of the rope in his left hand; and then coiling up a few fathoms in his

right, he takes good care to keep the running noose at the end open and clear, and gives it several wide swings around his head, when off flies the thong, alighting with unerring aim (if thrown by an experienced hand) upon the horns of the animal.

The mist clearing away, we had a fine view of the whole plain, which extended on three sides of us as far as the eye could reach. Before us lay the range of mountains which rise immediately in the rear of the capital; and these being only about five leagues distant, it was not difficult to discern the steeples of the cathedral and the little white convent which stands on the summit of Montserrate.

We saw a very fine field of barley here just in the ear, and another field of very short but heavy-topped wheat. We passed here and there on the road some very comfortable-looking and capacious farmhouses; but the entire want of trees (there being nothing but a fungous sort of willow, shaped like the Lombardy poplar) gives the plain throughout an air of great dreariness and desolation, particularly after having travelled, as we had done, for months through a constant succession of beautiful forests.

We passed two or three stackyards, in which were about twenty well-built stacks of what appeared to be wheat or oats.

The Puente Grande is a very fine stone bridge, having a single arch, with the date of 1669 upon it, and the images of Ferdinand and Isabella upon stone, set in niches on either side. The River Bogotá is here a dull, black-looking stream, with nothing of interest about it. A few wild ducks and white herons were sporting around us, and we were informed that this was good shooting-ground in the proper season.

At Fontivon commences the stone causeway

laid down by the old Spaniards, and which, no doubt, was meant to have been carried through the whole length of the plain. It is paved with large round stones, and slopes from the centre nearly like the roof of a house; thus rendering it fit for neither man, mule, nor carriage to travel upon, and thus the penance suffered in the journey is kept up to the very entrance into the capital.

Wherever it was possible to do so, we kept on a little straitened footpath which was beat out at the foot of the causeway; being obliged, however, occasionally to go back upon the regular way for the purpose of avoiding the deep quagmires we here and there encountered.

Fontivon is a small, neat place, about two leagues from Bogotá. We got a very good dinner at the principal house, which was kept by a man of the name of Hill, a large mule provider. This meal was, indeed, well cooked and served up, and I was referred to the landlady for the amount of the bill. In reply to my question, she answered, "Un doblon, señor mio;" upon which I unhesitatingly counted out into her hands the round sum of sixteen dollars in American gold; not, however, without thinking at the time that the price was very exorbitant, and that good meals, such as we got at the Acerradero house, amounting only to four reals for three of us, was no longer to be looked for!

Had Bishop, whom I had sent off a little before to Bogotá to inquire for the Señor Santa María, been here, he in all probability would have corrected my mistake at once, and made me understand that the old lady meant only a four dollar doubloon instead of a sixteen one; both being frequently designated by one term, although "escudo" is the more proper term for all gold coinage of the country less than the "onza" or piece of sixteen dollars. When I paid the woman the money I observed that she

glanced first at the gold in her yet open hand and then at me; while I, on the other hand, attributing this to her ignorance of the coinage, repeatedly assured her that it was perfectly good, and even went so far as to give her my name and references in Bogotá. I never had my mistake rectified *by this most respectable family*, unless, indeed, they paid back eight dollars, the sum for which I agreed to compromise, to a person who, since the period I write of, has turned out rather a doubtful character, and who then resided in Bogotá. I gave him an order to receive it, and I heard no more of it.

It was just sunset as we approached the suburbs of the town, where the *trusty* Bishop made his appearance, as was his custom, in the old state of "half seas over." It was arranged that we were to go direct to the quinta (country-house) of the Señor Santa Maria, which that gentleman had very kindly tendered for our accommodation until I could procure a house, and which had not yet been done, on account, it seemed, of a little false economy to prevent my being obliged to pay an extra month's rent or so; and now I was told by Bishop that, owing to the influx of strangers to the Congress, it would be a very difficult matter to obtain one to answer my purposes.

It was full eight o'clock P. M. before we were fairly housed in the neat and elegant quinta of the Sr. Santa Maria, which was situated in the skirts of the city close to the San Victorina, among rich gardens, with whole hedges of rose-bushes in bloom. The house was very tastefully furnished, and the servants, who were left in charge of the place, as the family had removed into town, were very attentive to us. I truly felt that this night's delightful rest fully compensated for the previous discomfort and wretchedness of the one passed at Facutativa.

The next morning I went into the city, and had an interview with the American minister, General M'Affee, who introduced me to several gentlemen, both foreigners and citizens. Señor Raymundo Santa Maria received me very kindly, and made the warmest protestations of his readiness to afford me his services in any way I might require in starting my establishment in Bogotá; and he immediately despatched one of his clerks to make strict inquiries after a house for me. General M'Affee also left the services of his son at my disposal. It was a week, however, before I obtained a house, and even then it was with the greatest difficulty. I found that it was very spacious, and in every respect well adapted for my use. I paid at the rate of two ounces (or thirty-two dollars) per month. It was two stories high, had about twenty rooms, and the great convenience of a running fountain of excellent water, and a small garden; a few cracks in the walls showed that it had withstood the shock of one earthquake, at least, and by their solidity and materials they seemed to justify the opinion that it would still bear up against one or two more. Its situation was very pleasant, being in the "Calle de los Palacios," and on the rising ground, a great object here, as the proximity to the mountains, where water gushes down through the town in all directions, renders the thick mud walls of the dwellings more or less damp continually; and, for this reason, the best dwelling-houses are those of two stories high, where the inmates make use of the lower parts only for stables or storehouses.

All this while I heard not a word of my goods on the river; and Santa Maria told me that, if I received them in a month's time, I might be thankful. And now I began to be fearful I had done wrong in not bringing the whole of my goods along with me.

I kept the people in the house with me, as each two could have a comfortable room to themselves. I had a brick chimney of twenty feet built for the factory, which took a whole week in building! I hired a woman cook and another female to assist her, and got on very well in that respect. The whole of the second floor of the house was bricked, over which we spread the estera or matting of the country. In nearly two months from this date, in the month of May, I received almost all my goods in very excellent condition.

Having opened a store in the Calle Real, I had the happiness to find that my manufactures were well liked; and, indeed, but a fair rate of consumption in the Bogotá market is necessary to realize, and even exceed, one's wishes and expectations; but this does away with the otherwise large profits often made here.

CHAPTER IV.

Singular Situation of the City.—Architecture.—Museum.—Theatre.—Trades and Occupations.—Mode of Conducting Business.—Markets.—Domestic Arrangements.—Dress.—Modes of Conveyance.—Mines.—Schools.

THE very first question which I believe every traveller must ask himself, when once quietly settled down in the city of Bogotá, is, "What could have induced the Spanish government to select so singular and unfavourable a site for the capital of a great province, when the most clouded understanding would have pitched upon that of Honda, the head of navigation?" Twenty-four leagues of the worst travelling in the universe might have been thus

avoided: why? the indirect taxation for the conveyance of goods up to this time might have afforded a sum sufficient to build a city of palaces twice the size of the present mud-walled town of Bogotá. The impregnability of the mountain-passes, in the old policy of shutting out all intercourse with strangers, might have been the reason on the part of government for building the capital where it is; but certainly the wisdom of any other nation would have deemed the strongly-fortified towns of Carthagena and Santa Marta, joined to the natural defence, nay, almost insuperable barrier which the ascent up the river Magdalena presents to an army, particularly of European soldiers, as affording sufficient justification in choosing the fine site on which the decayed city of fallen Honda now stands. Or, even had they preferred Guaduas, that sweet and sunny valley, methinks two thousand brave and hardy veterans, stanch patriots at heart, might have kept out the horde of a second Xerxes, and have baffled all their attempts to reach the proud summit of the mighty Sarjento. Anywhere would have been better than where it now is, backed up against these peaks of the Andes, around which gather everlasting mists and clouds, which enshroud the city for nearly three quarters of the year. As the town lies on a descent from the base of these hills, which are full of never-failing springs of water, the whole ground seems to be saturated by them, rendering it extremely unwholesome and dangerous to sleep on a first floor.

The city of Bogotá may contain at present about thirty thousand souls; indeed, I should say less, for I took some pains to arrive at a close estimate of a portion at least; although the length is over an English mile, and the breadth about one half, yet the majority of the houses are only one story high, and consist of but three or four rooms at most, while

many of the two-story houses have but few inhabitants. Several of the larger and better class of buildings, which fill up large spaces, do not, perhaps, contain each more than eight or ten inmates. Then, too, the fact of the churches and convents, all of them nearly occupying a square, fully accounts for the population being so thin in comparison with the extent of surface covered.

As concerns the architectural beauty of the place, if one excepts the Cathedral, and, perhaps, the Church of San Francisco, there is but little worth noticing. Still the traveller will be often struck with the beauty and symmetry of the interior of buildings (especially of churches), when the exterior would by no means warrant such an expectation.

The walls of the houses are commonly composed of rammed earth, which becomes in a short time very hard, and, after being white or yellow washed, really looks quite smooth and well finished. These walls are of great solidity, and present a strong resistance to earthquakes. I have seen them rent to the width of four inches, and yet remain unbroken, which is probably the reason why so little taste has been displayed by the old Spaniards in erecting their buildings, and also by those few of the present day who might otherwise have raised more elegant structures. The roofs are covered with red tile, while not one half of the prison-looking windows are glazed, although the chilliness of the climate so fully demands it. The greater number of houses with two stories have huge misshapen balconies which overhang the street; and the eaves of many of the houses extend sufficiently to protect the foot-passenger from the rain; but it is not to be understood that they do so to the degree described by an *honourable* traveller, when he asserts that he could walk about the city anywhere without the assistance of an umbrella! The total absence of chimneys has

a very singular effect. As a substitute, each house has a small raised brick aperture, through which the charcoal fumes and steams from the kitchen escape. The entrance to a house is generally through a passage paved with alternate rows of bones and stone, which has two huge doors, the outer one appearing like that of a citadel, made of thick, heavy plank, plentifully studded with immense nails; this is made to fold, and is secured behind with a strong beam and massy lock. The inner door can be swung open at once, or entered by a wicket placed in the centre. Laden cattle are driven immediately into the lower courtyard, where on each side are arranged chambers for the storage of coal, &c.; the stable being also here. This yard is paved, and generally built square, having a connected gallery running round, over which the roof completely projects. A broad stairway of stone or brick leads from the inner door of entrance to this balcony, from which a number of doors and windows communicate with the rooms beyond. But there is very little to admire in the interior arrangements of even their first houses.

A very few of the people begin now to copy after the foreign residents among them, or have brought home from abroad improved tastes. The estera, or straw mat made in the country, is generally used for carpets; and instead of chairs for common use, they have sofas of very shabby materials covered with chints. Such chairs as they have are for the most part used when dining, and are of painted wood, with brown leathern bottoms, and are rudely silvered and adorned with bungling representations of Roman eagles and the state arms. Yet these barbarous items of household furniture cost from twenty-four to thirty dollars the dozen. Looking-glasses are much admired; and the estimation in which they are held appears from their covering the walls of

every room with them, without the slightest regard to uniformity in either size, style, or position. The beds are indifferent, and are generally made of wool. I never saw a single pound of feathers offered for sale in the city. Those who wish to have a feather-bed must procure the materials by saving all the picking of their own fowls, and by bespeaking the good offices of their neighbours. The floors of the houses are mostly laid over with broad bricks, which soon become uneven, and, but for the mats, very unpleasant to walk upon.

I saw, in many of the houses of the richer class, small private chapels, very neatly fitted up, with an altar, some good pictures, &c. The kitchen is always near the dining-room, that the dishes may be served up as warm as possible, more especially the great national drink of chocolate. For a real Bogotano, this can never be too hot; and so much does he esteem this quality, that on the degree of heat which his chocolate may possess, and the relish he may have for it, will greatly depend the tone of his feelings and the disposition of his temper throughout the day. My friend G——g told me of an old gentleman in the Calle Real who invariably attends in person to the preparation of this dish, his choice refreshment and favourite beverage. A little boy blows the fire all the while, and, when the chocolate is properly done, he has it poured into a silver vessel, that it may retain all the heat possible. When he has taken a few sips, his cup is again placed upon the fire for a minute or two, while he directs the boy, "sopla muchachito, un pocito mas" (blow, little boy, a very little more); and then taking it up, exclaims, as he again sips the burning liquid, all the while tears coursing down his cheek for very agony, "bien! ya esta tibiocito" (ah! now it is a *little* hot). Their kitchens have no fireplaces, but a row of small ovens or furnaces set in the

mason-work, with circular openings at the top, into which the red earthen pots used for cooking are placed, metal ones being scarcely known. Charcoal is the fuel in general use, and is very costly, owing to the great scarcity of material in the immediate neighbourhood of the city. Yet they might easily adapt their furnaces to the burning of anthracite coal, of which there is an abundant supply, at a very low price, and of excellent quality. The greatest convenience that these houses can boast of is the fine supply of water, most of them being furnished with one or more pipes, which lead into a large reservoir of hewn stone. In the rainy season it is necessary to filter it, or catch a fresh supply for the uses of the day before a shower, after which the whole assumes a deep clayey colour; but in two hours after the rain, however heavy, it again becomes quite transparent. In spite of the greatest care and regard to cleanliness on the part of the housekeeper, every room swarms with fleas. The moment one takes a seat, these little gentry commence their skipping perambulations about the person, tempting one almost to bid defiance to the rules of good breeding, and to give vent to the smothered imprecations which cannot but be excited under the exquisite torture one is constantly undergoing! while the real Bogotano (how provoking!) can calmly repose under it all as cool as a cucumber, and immoveable in every joint and muscle! Ah! nothing like habit!

The streets of Bogotá are quite narrow, though paved and tolerably regular. The great want of sidewalks is a sad inconvenience, however; these being only found in the Calle Real, and in a small part of San Juan de Dios. Neither is the city lighted, except in the business quarter of the Calle Real; and for this light, and the charge of proper watchmen to guard the shops and warerooms, each

merchant and shopkeeper pays a yearly tax of twelve dollars. Persons walking with ladies, or with their families to and from their respective homes, are accustomed to have, if the night be dark, a servant in attendance, who carries a lantern to guide them on their way, not to ward off an attack; for, during the whole term of my residence in Bogotá, I never knew or heard of a single night assault upon any individual, and only one instance of shoplifting. It is only during popular commotions that there is any danger to be apprehended. I have myself been out at night quite alone to a very late hour, and never met with harm or insult; but the very stillness of the grave seemed to rest upon the city; so much so, that I have often felt as if a moderate row might not be so bad a thing, after all.

The *Palace*, so called, is a shabby affair, and has nothing in particular to distinguish it from many other buildings around. The lower apartments facing the street were once let out as shops; now, however, they are with more propriety shut up. The house is situated on a corner facing the church of San Carlos, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the Cathedral and great square. The present occupant, Santander, has it well furnished in the European style. A small gilded balcony is shown at the extreme end of the building, facing the "Calle de los Palacios," as that from which Bolivar made his escape in disguise, and gained the coast only to die in neglect and poverty!

The *Cathedral* is on the east side of the "Plaza Mayor," and is built entirely of a dark cream-coloured stone, with which the mountains in the neighbourhood abound. The front has two hundred feet, is raised upon a terrace of the same material in width about thirty feet, and is ascended from the street by steps which run the whole length both of the front and sides. This terrace is the

usual promenade for men of business, or for lookers-out on market days, and is called the "Altezano." Three wide doors in front and one on the side (each twenty feet high) give admission to the interior of the Cathedral. The altar receives light from a massive dome in the roof. The design of the whole is very chaste, and has nothing of the tinselled work about it so prevalent in other churches. There were here a few good Scriptural paintings, but by whom executed I could not be definitely informed. The jewels and sacred utensils of the church are of the most rich and massive kind. I observed in the hands of the archbishop a silver crook, beautifully wrought, about seven feet in length, and at least five inches in diameter. I saw also a double cross of about the same height, the rod being smaller and square, and of the purest gold.

Other articles likewise attracted my notice, which will be described hereafter. The whole floor of the church is paved with brick, and there are no seats. The women generally kneel down in the middle aisle, while the men range themselves in a standing position on either side, engaged much oftener in passing rude remarks on objects around them than upon their religious exercises; the females, however, are very devout and regular in their attendance on public worship.

Along either side of the church are successive niches, each containing an altar and the image of some particular saint; all of which have different days devoted to them, and different worshippers appear at their respective shrines. The columns are of the Ionic order, and comport well with the style of the building. On each side, and near the great altar, two small pulpits, admirably designed and richly gilded, are appended to two of the pillars, like two swallow's nests on a wall. They are

really gems in their way! The choir is situated in the very centre of the church, and has quite an awkward appearance upon first entering from the front, besides destroying what might otherwise be a very fine view of the high altar, which loses much by coming upon it too abruptly. However, when one has gained the space beyond the choir, on looking back, the effect is good; as, by its being raised a few steps, the spacious interior, which is most tastefully designed and highly finished, is fully disclosed. There are two organs, but the largest was totally out of repair. At the time of my departure, I left Bishop, my former guide, engaged in putting it in order. The performances of this choir are wretchedly bad; such nasal twanging and congregated discord as was here exhibited detract much from the otherwise imposing services of the church.

The two side-aisles lead past the great altar to the rich and abundantly supplied wardrobe, and the repository of sacred images; also to the apartments of the attending priests, where there is, besides a small chapel, or sanctum sanctorum.

The church has two very neat steeples, one on each side on the front; these two, and that of the Church of St. Francisco, are the only ones deserving the name in Bogotá. All the others are nothing more than little mean towers or simple walls, in which are suspended the cracked bells that incessantly assail the ear from morning to night; and, as the church walls are quite low, these unharmonious sounds jar through the head of the passer by, producing feelings similar to those which the hero of the story in Blackwood, entitled "the Man and the Bell," is said to have experienced. The apparent end and aim of all this bell-ringing in Bogotá seemed to be for the purpose of trying who should pull the strongest and fastest! They neither toll nor swing the bells, but jerk the tongues of as

many as are in the belfry with all their strength, to a fandango sort of tune, sometimes preluding the measure after the manner of a drum-call. The people can always tell what service is to be performed in the churches by the variations in this medley, and by the size of the bell rung, there being generally three to each church, and of different sizes. The elevation of the Host in any of the churches is announced to the whole city by a peculiar short and quick movement, followed by one single stroke on the largest bell, when all heads are uncovered, and when all the pious discontinue their conversation, walking, or any other engagement in which they may have been occupied at the time. The close of the sacrament is again announced by another quick movement of the bells, and everything then goes on as before. When convents are attached to the churches, the monks are their own bell-ringers. It is highly disagreeable to live in the immediate neighbourhood of a church, on account of this never-ceasing and disagreeable bell-ringing.

Royal Chapel.—In the same building, or, rather, in what may be termed a wing or addition to the Cathedral, is what was formerly the chapel of the Viceroy of Spain. It was closed during my residence in Bogotá on account of undergoing some repairs. This also has a large door in front, of similar dimensions with those of the Cathedral itself, opening on the great platform or Altezano.

Postoffice and *Custom-house.*—Directly adjoining the Royal Chapel is the Postoffice, and other offices connected with that department and the Customs. It is a plain, substantial building of two stories, with a colonnade of stone in front, over which is a good balcony, commanding a fine view of the market, as well as of the various religious processions on the holydays.

The rates of postage are all settled by weight; a single letter from the seaboard to Bogotá costs twenty-five cents; pamphlets and newspapers are free. A set of boxes are provided for the merchants at the rate of four dollars per annum. Letters are generally delivered through a window from the street; but the place for the delivery of parcels, called encomiendas, which pay a mail freight of one dollar per pound, is in a different part of the building. No country can possibly possess a better regulated post than that of New-Grenada, nor is there any place where fewer accidents occur.

If a person wishes to send a hundred doubloons to the seaboard, he must place them in one of the little bags of the country, called mochilas; and after the teller in the office counts the money, the bag is tied up and numbered; the teller then hands him a formal receipt for the amount, in which is also stated the kind of coin received, and to whose order to be delivered at its place of destination. This receipt he sends to his correspondent, who presents it at the office there and receives his money, the government being responsible for its delivery. This mode of the "encomiendas" is often a great advantage to the man of business, as no goods can possibly reach him in so short a time as by mail. This being the case, I have often seen small parcels, containing a few pounds' weight of some new style of shawls, laces, gloves, &c., of much demand in market, forwarded in this way very conveniently. I rather think that the mail is limited as to the number of pounds' weight in the gross it can carry, but to what extent I am ignorant.

Church and Convent of San Francisco.—This is an immense concern, although, at present, the brotherhood do not muster many members. Their dress consists of a coarse gray cloak reaching down

to the feet, and a broad-brimmed felt hat, with the crown low and round, the brim being worn quite flat. Several of the members are young, strong-looking men, with the freshness of an English complexion. The church faces the Calle Real, and has a fine steeple and bells of good tone. The convent walls stretch far back, to the distance of about six hundred feet on the banks of the River San Francisco, over which a stone bridge of a single arch is thrown, and continues the Calle Real. This may be termed the filthiest part of the city. Such odours as prevail here cannot surely be meant in compliment to that more wholesome odour of sanctity which it is the peculiar privilege of all the true followers of the blessed St. Francis to possess.

One is apt to think meanly of this convent, as well as of all the others here, from their dull, plain exterior, where the eye rests but on a long dead wall, scarcely ever relieved by a single door or window. But on gaining the neat-paved court within, round which ranges a double gallery, arched and supported by numerous plain stone pillars, the whole whitewashed, and presenting a great appearance of aptitude for the purposes intended, the stranger will see much to attract his notice. I have ever found the different fraternities very obliging and attentive in showing their convents, and with suavity of manner returning satisfactory answers to the thousand and one questions continually thrust upon them. These galleries are lined with a set of the most wretched oil paintings, showing forth the history of St. Francis; but, excepting the little light they throw on this subject, they are not worth more than a cursory glance. The different apartments of the priests lead off from the upper gallery. A feeling of loneliness must, I think, steal over these few solitary tenants of a mansion capable of containing at least one hundred times their present

number, especially when we recur to its by-gone days of splendour, before more liberal principles sprung up, and ere the public feeling, now grown more engrossed with the selfish and common concerns of life, caused the thick veil which once shrouded the pretended sanctity and dark superstitions of her altars in part to drop away, leaving nothing of all its wonted pageant but just enough to point out her history, and cause mankind to bless the happy dawn of simple purity which threatens soon to usurp its place!

In the centre of the court is a fountain of very clumsy design, and in the church there are many paintings, but none worthy of notice. They are mostly in gilded frames, and the largest are placed behind the altar, one above another, reaching up to the roof. The organ is a much finer one than that in the Cathedral; and here, too, separate altars occupy either side, while everything is extravagantly bedaubed with tinsel-work and gilding.

The *Church and Convent of San Domingo*, standing in the very centre of the Calle Real, and extending as far back as St. Juan de Dios, is by far the best located and wealthiest in the city. The brotherhood are as merry and good-looking a set of fellows as one would wish to look upon. Their dress is white under black, the black surplice having a cowl attached, which is frequently worn tucked up behind under the hat, so as to shelter the neck; and they wear a broad-brimmed black hat looped up at the sides, the brim of which being full nine inches wide, makes the wearer look frightful enough. This hat is of Italian origin.

The front of the church recedes a little from the street, and is plain in the extreme. But the whole building includes a square in the most populous and business part of the city, and consists of two stories, the lower being rented out as shops for mer-

chandise, the proceeds from which form the revenue of the order. The second comprises the apartments of the monks. The whole square, enclosing a spacious paved court, is surrounded by galleries like those of San Francisco, but with this advantage, that the rooms have windows looking outward as well as to the court, where the lazy brotherhood can at times enjoy what is passing in the street. The prior of this order, hearing that I was engaged in buying up a few paintings of the celebrated Vasquez, their townsman, sent me an invitation to visit his convent and to look at some in his possession. I accordingly went, and was received most graciously, and was conducted by him to his own private study, a small apartment fronting the Calle Real, and very tastefully fitted up, with no pretension whatever to luxury in its arrangements. He offered me strawberries and cream, which I declined. I succeeded in obtaining a "Holy Family" by Vasquez at a low price. A "Virgin and Child," full length, by one Figaro, who was Vasquez's master, is considered a fine production. It was in a room directly communicating with that of the prior. But, as I have before said, this order being rich, they cannot be induced to part with a fine painting, even at double its real value; and I suppose the one I purchased was the private property of the prior. In the "sacristy" or chapel of the church are some beautiful works, one of which, "Christ upon the Cross," is truly divine; I could not learn who was the author, but only that it came from Italy. The greatest gem here, however, is a head of the Virgin by Vasquez, for which they have been offered at different times from one to two thousand dollars, being a production of which one is never weary of contemplating. It hangs at the base of a little altar to the right of the great one. A friend of mine, a French gentleman, had offered three hundred dol-

lars for a small altar-piece, but could not obtain it. In the chapter-room are a number of paintings, among which is the history of the creation, also by Vasquez, and of considerable merit. This room is of an oblong form, having heavy, antique-looking arm-chairs set in the walls on each side, and at the upper end two figures in the habit of the order, with their heads concealed by a black cloth. There is likewise a small organ here. The number of doors and entrances is very great, while a stranger might soon lose himself without a guide. Indeed, it is the very same with the convents as the private houses in Bogotá, where every room on a floor communicates with each other; so that if an enemy should enter and neglect the precaution of stationing a sentry at the outer door, he could never succeed in securing his intended victim, single handed, in such a labyrinth of apartments.

Although we have now nearly reached the middle of the nineteenth century, and this government professes republican principles, yet when I called to mind that this very order of the Dominicans were the first to introduce the accursed Inquisition into this country when formerly a Spanish province, and when I experienced the sepulchral gloom and awe which was around me amid these dark and winding passages, I must confess I breathed more freely when once again beyond these sacred precincts; not that there could be aught to fear from a dozen shaven heads, now that the power which once whetted and envenomed their stings is, it is devoutly to be hoped, plucked from them for ever; but I liked not to loiter where, ere now, some cowled tyrant wreaked the fury of his petty and malignant passions on some poor fellow-worm, who was perchance turned over to the tender mercies of the Dominicans by those who should have been his protectors, and not coadjutors with his murderers.

San Juan de Dios (St. John of God) has a convent attached, the monks having, besides, charge of the city hospital, which is also within the walls. There is nothing of note about it, save that the order have been long looked upon with much suspicion touching the genuineness of their republican principles, while the manner in which they have latterly regulated the affairs of the hospital has been highly censured. About the time of my leaving the city a report was circulated that one of them having suddenly died, leaving their number incomplete, the government had broken their charter; how true this rumour was I could not find out.* An Englishman, who kept a shop of all sorts of knickknacks in the Calle of Juan de Dios, had fallen sick, and, as his recovery had left him a little deranged, his friends thought proper to send him to this hospital, whither I went, by request, to see him, in company with an English friend. A dirty, unwashed young monk ushered us into the room in which was the lunatic. It was a very neat one, opening from the second gallery, the floor of which was matted, and furnished with a low truckle bedstead. Among the daubs of paintings I observed one which struck me at the time, the subject being a friar, and a poor, wretched-looking object of a man, described as a noted heretic, and his sable highness King Beelzebub: the scene being in the country; a cord, thrown over the lower branch of a tree, was noosed at one end, with the poor heretic's neck enclosed, while the friar was represented holding fast by the other, just drawing it tight enough to prevent it slipping, having in one hand the crucifix, which he held straight up in the face of the miserable man, seemingly urging him to recant his errors: the poor wretch, bewildered on the one side by the fierce looks and unpleasant jerk-

* The order is broken up.

ings of the rope given by the ghostly father, and on the other by the grinning, plausible counter-admonitions of his arch adviser, who seemed whispering his hellish jargon into his ear, appeared to be as completely at a stand as to which he should follow as was ever the poor mouse in Hood's rich caricature of "How happy could I be with either," where the mouse, poor thing, looks first at the greedy dog on the one hand, and then at the hungry cat on the other. How the contest terminated the history sayeth not, nor was the dirty monk of St. Juan de Dios able to inform me. Around the galleries there also hang representations of the history of the saint's life; and they are well calculated, one would suppose, to bring down his vengeance upon the perpetrators of such unseemly daubs. Here you have him distributing bread to the famished poor of a city in Spain; while one of the heavenly host is pictured on horseback, with two well-stuffed wallets, containing small rolls, to keep up the saint's supply of food. In another, a like personage is seen presenting him with money to give to the poor. Attached to the hospital is a very extensive drug-store, which opens on the street of San Juan de Dios. Of the church itself there is nothing worthy of note, save the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadaloupe, to be hereafter described.

San Augustine, with a dozen others, are but commonplace affairs.

The *Church* and untenanted *Convent of the Capuchins* stands low down towards the plain or foot of the city, at the entrance to the alameda or public walk. It has a fine green court in front, enclosed by a low wall; and the ruined gardens and courts occupy much space. This order was suppressed, in the early career of the republican party, for their stanch adherence to the royal cause.

Immense stone reservoirs for hot and cold baths,

with extensive kitchen-ranges, show the worthy Capuchins to have been in no way careless of the good things of this lower sphere. Many indifferent paintings, representing passages in the life of the saint and other subjects, are allowed to hang rotting on the walls. One or two of the latter I should have liked to purchase, but could gain no clew to whom I should apply, learning only that the place was the property of government.

To the left, as you enter the hall which leads to the convent apartments, is a small square room, with large latticed doors. A small, mean altar, having the device of a lash and rods, points out its use to be that appropriated to the severer modes of Catholic penance, and hither her more pious votaries still come. I saw a bed about to be carried into this room for a penitent who was to pass the night here. These miserable beings always come with their persons carefully concealed beneath a black gown, which envelops them wholly from head to foot save two apertures which are left for the purposes of vision, the dresses being exactly the same as those worn in public processions. The common people still venerate the place, and I have observed even many of the more intelligent pause in passing before the iron cross, which is erected on a stone pedestal on the green in front, and devoutly cross themselves as they muttered some silent prayer.

The *Church and Convent of San Diego* (St. James) lies at the extreme end of the Calle Real, towards Zipaquiera, and is only worth mentioning on account of the great filthiness of the fraternity. The very newest hat and cloak in their possession must at least have served a third generation; while they are so coated with filth and grease, that the original colour of the materials is left entirely to vague conjecture, although black is said to have

been that of the habit worn by their patron and founder.

The *Church and Nunnery of Santa Clara* is situated in the street of the same name, near the Plaza Mayor. It contains about sixty nuns, as I was told by my attentive friend Colonel Joachim Acosta, and is said to be well conducted. Its inmates are comfortably provided for, each nun having her own little furnished apartment; not a cell, but a room in a neat and small cottage-built house within the high enclosures. On my visit to the Observatory I had a bird's-eye view of these enclosures from the top of the terrace, but could not obtain a peep at any of the fair sisters, seeing only a few of the women who are employed as servants. However, upon another occasion I was more successful; for I had a short peep at the lady abbess and two or three of the sisters. It was on Christmas Eve; and happening to pass with a friend the church door, we observed a man issue forth with a silver censer to obtain fire for the burning of the incense (as we presumed)! In passing out he left the door partially open, while the choir were drawling out some chant in a very low, tremulous tone, when we were tempted by curiosity to look in and see what was going on. There was not a living being in the aisles; but, on casting our eye upward in the direction of a close grating running the whole length of the gable of the church, and facing the altar, we could distinctly perceive a number of lights borne by nuns, who were clothed in white garments; but the features of only two were at all visible.

The lady abbess was one of these. She held in her hand a massive silver crook, and kept slowly swinging her body to and fro, her pale lips moving all the while in prayer; her full black eyes so intently bent upon what must have been the services

of the great altar below, that their lids were perfectly immoveable. It now appeared that the service which was performing was set apart for them, thus explaining why there were no other worshippers. The two faces we saw besides that of the lady abbess were those of women well advanced in years, whose appearance tended to dispel all the romance connected with the idea of captivating roguish little nunnites. We were now interrupted in our stolen survey by the return of the man with the censer, who put an end to the whole by unceremoniously closing the door in our faces, and seconding this action by no very pleasant expression of countenance.

The sum required for admittance here as a nun is five thousand dollars; and formerly, upon the demise of one of the members, the whole of her property fell to the lot of the convent. But the present administration have done away with this usage, and the property now reverts, as in justice it ought, to the friends of the deceased. This, it is thought, will have a tendency to prevent much of the intrigue formerly used to induce wealthy persons to join the order, as the bare entrance-money alone would be but a small object.

There are two more *Nunneries* in Bogotá, but they have very few members. "I won't be a nun" appears to be rather gaining ground among the wiser Bogotanas of 1837.

There are several other churches and convents, a description of many of which would not differ much from those already mentioned, some of them being very miserable affairs. The convents of El Carmen and the House of Education have each a few inmates, but these institutions are fast declining in Bogotá, there being merely old stock on hand, scarcely an addition being now made in the course of a whole twelvemonth.

The *Hospicio* now gives employment to all such aged and infirm beings as used to frequent the streets in the most abject condition, to the constant annoyance of passengers. Here they are excellently fed and clothed, and are employed in weaving and spinning the cotton and woollen fabrics of the country. I found the greatest degree of cleanliness and discipline prevailing among them. Some of their fabrics, such as towelling and ruanas, either of silk, wool, or cotton, far exceeded anything of the kind as generally found in the markets here.

The *National Museum* consists of two small rooms, and is open for inspection only on the first Sunday of every month. The superintendent is Colonel Joachim Acosta, whose politeness and extreme attention to visiters is deserving of the greatest praise. One of the two rooms is set apart wholly as the repository of foreign and native minerals, fossils, granites, precious stones, &c., and is well worth an hour's minute attention, especially as 30,000 francs were paid for a collection of stones and minerals from Germany alone. Among these are some rare specimens of petrifactions in pebbles.

The native specimens are very fine; and among them is a rich vein of the emerald, with its rocky bed, from the Mousa mines; jet from the Rio Villeta, as fine, I think, as any from Europe; gold, silver, copper, lead, and iron ores of the richest kinds, and contained in various coloured rock; sulphur, salt, antimony, &c.; amethyst, topaz, carnelian, pearl, pebble, and a stone like the Scottish cairngorum, called here gallinasa, &c., &c., all found in the provinces of New-Grenada, and unsurpassed by anything of the kind I ever saw. They are all very neatly arranged in glass cases, but the want of a catalogue is a great desideratum for the study and enjoyment of the collection. I

saw here, also, a meteoric stone of many pounds' weight, which fell near Bogotá.

The second room is set apart for specimens of the animal kingdom, relics, &c. But it will be scarcely credited when I say that, in a country like this, rich above all others in the countless variety of animal life, they possess barely one hundred well-preserved insects, and not a single dozen of the thousands of the bird kind, that, clad in the brightest plumage of the rainbow tint, fill the skies in every section of the country. I was informed by Colonel Acosta that "this was owing to their not being able to obtain persons capable of preserving the specimens; and that they had even offered three dollars for every sample of the kind." Nonsense! Why not make half such an offer to any city of Christian Europe or the United States, and I will engage, providing the money be paid as fast as the specimens are delivered, that there would scarcely remain a sufficient number of the species to serve the purposes of procreation at the end of the first twelvemonth. Here also is the identical banner of the great conqueror of Peru; it is worked with silver thread, and is now in a very decayed condition; also a portrait of Christopher Columbus, from Spain, said to be an excellent one; and an original letter of his, in his own handwriting. Likewise a mantle worn by the last unfortunate Queen of Peru; heavy keys of gold and silver, which belonged to the castles and gates of Carthagena in the time of the Spaniards; a Flemish painting of "dead game, and a servant bearing a basket of fruit," an excellent thing; a very pretty model in brass of a steamboat, which seemed to engross almost exclusively the attention of native visiters. It was in full operation, and closely attended to by the colonel, who, I am certain, must have been completely wearied out with answering

the endless string of interrogatories put to him by his gaping auditors.

The *Observatory* is an octagonal tower about sixty feet high, I should think, having but two rooms besides the empty and dilapidated one on the ground floor, where formerly a fine fountain emptied its waters into a large basin of hewn stone, but which is now entirely dried up. Two fine Dolland telescopes, with other instruments, were destroyed, when the Patriots entered the city, by a band of woolly Africans, who forcibly made their way into the place, and broke out the glasses and otherwise mutilated the instruments, because they looked upon them as machines by means of which their enemies, the Spaniards, warred against them.

The *Library* consists of some fine volumes, principally in the Spanish and French languages, treating generally of the arts and sciences. Among them is a very ancient and rare work on Botany. But the load of dust upon these fine works too truly tell in what bad repute reading is generally held in this place; while the careless and slovenly manner in which the rooms are kept augurs but poorly for the cause of literature and science in the capital of New-Grenada.

From the summit you have a fine view of the surrounding houses and plains beyond the city. Here the American minister and Colonel Acosta, who accompanied me, fell into a stout argument about politics, which showed the latter to be well versed in those of the United States. The two small rivers, San Augustine and San Francisco, which, descending from the mountains, run down through the city, however pure their streams or delightful their banks without, become, on the instant they enter the city proper, the common receptacles of all manner of filth, which is piled in heaps on their banks, awaiting the first freshet to

be carried away. Nothing can be more lovely than the River San Franciso before it enters these precincts, most especially as it comes tumbling and foaming down through the romantic pass of the Bocarron just above the city. Here may be seen hundreds of washerwomen thumping and squeezing their linen upon the broad, smooth stones, making collar and wrist buttons rain down like hail into the stream. The troops also wash their own clothes here; how often in the year they perform that service, I cannot tell; but certainly not once too often, if I may judge from their appearance. As the bed of the river is quite deep, and there is no artificial wall to keep up the banks, they present an uneven and ruinous appearance on some streets, where the foot-passenger has but just room enough to edge along; but these are back streets, which are not much frequented.

The bridges leading across these streams are strongly built, of the same stone as the Cathedral; and consist of one arch, quite plain and unadorned, which adds nothing to the beauty of the place. The smaller streams, which run down from the fountain-heads, and merely follow the indented pavements in the centre of the streets through which they flow, are of immense value to the citizens, as they empty into them every kind of filth and offal; the poor make their toilet by them, and perform their various ablutions, one of which may be worth recording on account of its oddity. However filthy may be the dress and persons of the poorer females, their carelessness does not extend to their feet. Without the use of shoes and stockings the season through, the soles must, of course, generally become hardened and coarse; yet, strange as it may seem, the fine contour and symmetry of a Spanish foot is not much destroyed even by this exposure. In order to preserve the soles of her feet as soft and pliant as possible, the prudent Bogotána seats her-

self quietly on the pavement by the side of the said streamlet, and commences a most vigorous application of the parts to some rough-topped stone, which is continued until the red circling blood is seen to reflect through the tough surface. When the people wish to get rid of a pile of sand, broken bricks, and the like, they await a heavy freshet, when the rubbish is piled on the edge of the stream, and a man with a hoe keeps pushing small portions at a time until the whole disappears; for not a wheelbarrow or handcart of any sort is to be seen here.

The *Halls of the Congress* are shabby affairs, consisting simply of two common rooms, situated in the street of Santa Clara, over some low "aguardiente" shops; the furniture being such as the most plain and simple republican could find no manner of fault with. Four or five ill-painted figures, intended to represent Truth, Justice, and the arms of the state, &c., are ranged along the walls.

The *Theatre* is to be considered next to the Cathedral in point of aptitude, being of respectable dimensions, and, with the exception of a want of seats in the boxes, well fitted up. The price of admission to the whole house is four reals, which includes the pit and two tiers of boxes, being all there are; but, to secure a box or family seats, you pay from three dollars fifty cents to four dollars fifty cents a box, even if only two seats be required; and then you are obliged to send your own chairs, and remove them after the performance. Certainly a most singular regulation! There is but one entrance to the house for the audience, which has a revolving wooden barrier, such as is used at turnpike gates. Here one soldier is stationed to preserve order, and two others are on each side of the outer gate which leads into the court. The pit is fitted up with plain board benches, having backs attached,

and a low tier of narrow boxes runs around it, the entrance to which is, for one half, by the outer lobby, and for the other, from the pit itself. Two more soldiers are placed at each side of the stage during the whole of the performance, as well as the president's box, while a full company wait orders in the courtyard without; but for what purpose I never could divine, as a more orderly, quiet audience throughout I have never witnessed either in England or the States. The custom might have had its origin during the unsettled times of the revolution, or when President Bolivar had rendered himself obnoxious to a party here. But its continuance in the present state of things is not very much in accordance with their republican features. The lights are extremely deficient, consisting, as they do, of candles placed in a tin chandelier, which is suspended from the centre, and others by the boxes. The orchestra, though small, perform well, especially in minor pieces; their selections being made from the first composers. Of the company and the pieces performed during my stay in Bogotá, but little can be said in their praise, with the single exception of the manager himself, who certainly possessed talents of the highest order, particularly in comedy. Poor fellow! these talents, displayed through the medium of either the French, English, or Italian language, in their own proper countries, would have won for him both reputation and opulence. As it is, the company barely obtain a livelihood, as the general attendance will admit but of two performances during the week, namely, Thursday and Sunday; and then they can very rarely repeat the same piece; no matter how well it may have been received, or what expenses may have been incurred in the getting of it up, it is lost after its first representation; and although neither the dresses nor scenery are at all passable, yet in Bogotá all this bears a much higher

rate than in the States. It is outright murder to listen to some of their ranting in tragedy, but in comedy they do better, the Spanish language being admirably adapted for all pieces wherein dry humour and repartee are found. Applause or disapprobation is very quietly, though seldom expressed; and there is not the half of the loud whispering and talking after the rise of the curtain that is to be heard in places which have pretensions to much more refinement of taste and elegance of manner than the half-breeds of Bogotá. There is one great comfort here for those occupying the rear seats, namely, the total absence of anything like a bonnet —the ladies dress their hair with a single rose, oftentimes fresh plucked from the tree—but this comfort is counterbalanced by the constant attendance of those annoying little wretches, the fleas, which at all times and in all places *scrape* one's acquaintance unceremoniously enough.

One evening, during the performance of a national drama called Paula (the name of the heroine of the piece, who was shot in the Plaza Mayor for her correspondence with the Patriots), the President Santander's name was repeatedly brought forward as one of the patriot generals. His excellency, who was present, despatched an officer to stop it, this species of barefaced adulation being a step beyond what his prudence would allow him to accept. When any performance is finished, the troops form in the court to escort the president to the palace in the same manner as they accompany him from it. This truly forms a feature in the republic not to be found in her Northern sister!

The *Provincial House*, where are the different offices attached to the gubernatorial of Bogotá, stands in the Plaza Mayor, and is also a quartel for the militia, who muster every Sunday for drill. It is as plain and clumsy a building as can be well

imagined, with not one well-furnished room in it; not even the audience chamber!

The *Mint* I did not visit, as a friend told me it would not repay the trouble. The building itself is a heavy, compact one, and plain to an extreme. A sentinel is stationed at the outer door.

The *Prison* for criminals faces the Plaza Mayor, near to the Postoffice and Cathedral. It is on the ground floor, and has barred windows, through which the prisoners converse with their friends, and continually vociferate the most brutal and insulting language to the passers by, of which neither their keepers nor the sentinels under their very nose ever take the slightest notice. The male culprits go about the city, with a strong guard attending them, and perform various menial offices; sometimes labouring on public buildings, removing rubbish, killing dogs, or any other work which it is the duty of the government to see performed.

The prison for the women is in another building, which is not exposed to the street. The great majority of delinquences among them consists of petty thefts, frauds upon the revenue, or common brawls. As the government monopolizes the distilling of all kinds of liquors, there is an immense number of illicit stills for making aguardiente (the common rum of the country) constantly in operation in the capital. To discover these, a train of about twelve gallows-looking wretches, with dragoon sabres and implements of search, daily and nightly patrol the city, pouncing occasionally upon the back premises of some poor Indian woman, and lugging away her whole distilling apparatus, owner and all. A small debt, also, is a thing not very easily set aside. A man owes me five dollars, which, after repeated duns, I find he determines not to pay, or, at least, cares not to exert himself about. I apply during court hours to an alcalde,

who draws out a summons in a couple of lines for the debtor to appear at such an hour on such a day; frequently naming the same day of the application. This summons I deliver to the person myself, or pay two reals to have it served upon him. The case being heard and judgment obtained, the delinquent is marched straight to prison unless he pays his debt on the spot, or finds a sufficient security, or leaves any article in my possession which I may consider an equivalent for the debt, and which I may sell at the expiration of the term agreed on, if not previously redeemed, while the balance goes to the depositor.

To receive pledges as security for debts contracted with individuals is a custom sanctioned by law, and much followed. A servant came to my store one day, and wished to take some samples to his employer's house, one of the first men in the city; offering me, as security in the mean time, an elegant diamond ring of at least two hundred dollars value, which I refused, after ascertaining that the servant was in truth what he pretended to be.

La Fabrica de Loza, or the potteries of my esteemed friends the Messrs. Peaks, of England, partners of Señor Nicolas Leyva, and some other citizens of respectability, is so rapidly becoming one of the first objects of interest in the country as not to be forgotten here. The works are situated just skirting the upper part of the town, at the foot of the steep Guadaloupe; they are very extensive, and all enclosed by a fine wall. Everything is on the best European model, and a system of tact and regularity is observable throughout the whole establishment rarely to be met with in a country where stupidity and intolerance in the working-classes go hand in hand to defeat the best-laid plans of the most skilful master. Nor can any one but those in similar circumstances judge of the Her-

culean labour of starting an establishment of this nature, and of bringing it into anything like successful operation in a country where the very first principles of the art are in chaotic confusion. True, the land abounds in all the necessary materials for such a business; but these must be brought together from a distance by the slow, insecure method of the natives, who, if told to gather such a coloured earth, would be sure to go wrong the second trip, and return with about two shovelfuls of an unsuitable kind from over mountains two days' journey, and at the moderate charge of perhaps twelve reals! Minerals and clays were to be hunted out, upon which experiment after experiment was to be tried before any certain results could be obtained; and all this had to be done with but four foreign workmen, who even themselves frequently threw matters back by their dissipation and neglect.

The two brothers Peaks are most indefatigable men, and already they begin to reap a rich harvest. The demand for their ware is such that it is generally sold while yet in an unfinished state. At first it was but indifferent, through the causes I have mentioned above; but I have seen latterly specimens as fine as the English ware. They have now imported a printing-press, and intend manufacturing the finest ware, as indeed they should do, for finer feldspar and material generally do not exist than in New-Grenada.

Fabrica de Cristales—glass factory. This is a fine, capacious building in the alameda, but sadly mismanaged. The proprietors imported a company of French workmen, who were the veriest set of blackguards imaginable, fighting from the moment they set foot on shore all the way up to Bogotá, and even here they refused to follow the instructions of the directors until the assistance of

the police was called in. Its failure may be attributed partly to this, but more to the extravagant schemes and plans of the company themselves, who arranged their mode of operations as if they were in Paris itself, where, for the mere payment, any amount of requisite material was to be had for their manufacturing purposes. The company is now entirely broken up.

There is a *Paper-mill*, but it does little or nothing. A fine *Cotton-mill*, with power-looms, was just about completed when I was there; it remains now to be seen whether the tremendous expense of transporting the machinery does not ruin all; at best, it is doubtful if it ever pay. The machinery was most injudiciously chosen, and might have answered every purpose at one half of the present cost: the idea of lugging an iron shaft and cogs of several tons' weight over a road such as has been described, when a well-made wooden drum would have answered just as well, must have originated certainly in the brain of one who little knew the country. Other manufactures are on a very limited scale, the comb factory of Mr. Gooding, and hat manufactory of Steuart, Russell, & Co. excepted, which are on far too extensive a scale for the actual demand of the country.

There are at least sixty different *Tailoring-shops* in the city, and the tailors are the oddest set of workers there; three or four men may be seen in a shop, seated upon low stools (no cross-legging here), all huddled together in front of the only place through which light can enter, viz., the door; one eye is employed on their work, while the other is on the street; a stitch is taken about every other minute, and, I am positive, one clever foreigner could do the work of all four, and much more neatly; they press with the common flat iron used by women; their garments, when completed, are

wretchedly made, but their prices are not so very high; indeed, there is but little difference between Bogotá and New-York in the cost of similar kinds of garments.

There is but one celebrated *Bootmaker*, a Mr. Michael, an American. His charges are ten dollars for best Wellington boots; there are a number of native workmen, who sell, Jewlike, for just such prices as they can get, and so it is with every other trade here. I have seen a very good pair of boots bought on Saturday night, when the poor fellow was hard pushed for cash for the coming holyday, at two dollars a pair! They have a singular way of fitting themselves with ready-made boots or shoes; they never try them on at the time of purchasing, but have a mode of determining the right size with the hand, and I believe the measure is uniformly correct, although the same mode might not so well suit those in the latitude of the North; but here, if the length is ascertained correctly, the fine model of the Spanish foot will be sure to answer in every other particular; whereas, with us, the high instep and the low instep, the wide foot and the narrow, the straight and the crooked, and twenty other differences, tend to put all such calculations quite out of joint! They make excellent sole leather here, but inferior upper.

Carpenters and *Joiners* do their work wretchedly bad, and are sadly lacking in the quantity and quality of their tools. A Mr. Mulford, an American cabinet and piano-forte maker, is doing well; a well-finished and excellent-toned upright piano, made by him, only brings five hundred dollars; such a one would formerly have sold for at least twelve hundred. There are many beautiful woods of native growth here admirably adapted for cabinet work; but the fine white pine of the North is sadly missed in the manufacture of almost everything

else, where a sound, light, and well-seasoned wood is absolutely necessary to make a perfect job: most of the common woods are cross-grained and heavy, and might lie in the sun for ages without being seasoned so as not to warp afterward.

Saddlers are also numerous; but a good English saddle will still bring sixty dollars, when the very best-made home-manufactured one will rarely bring over thirty.

Gunsmith.—There is but one in Bogotá, who also acts as captain of militia and government armorer. His charges are enormous. An active and good workman at this trade from the North might do well.

The *French Baker* and *Confectioner* is bad enough; and yet he is rapidly making a fortune, as two others have done before him in the same business. No ordinary business pays so well as this; and, were it properly conducted, it might be pushed on as large a scale as one could desire. It is a shame that the thing has not been thought of long before!

A good *Watchmaker* is also needed; and one who could unite with that business the setting of jewelry would do well.

As for a *Bookbinder*, the one who is now in Bogotá, and who does all the little business in his line, though a wretched botch, is good enough for the place at present, until a desire for reading becomes more manifest.

The *Stores* or *Shops* in the Calle Real, the chief street for business, are sepulchral-looking dens enough. A great folding-door, made of the heaviest wood, several inches thick, secured by one or more large-bolted padlocks, and a bolt-lock besides, all in the rudest style of the seventeenth century, slowly admits you into a small room of about twenty-five feet deep by twenty—a perfect hole in the wall,

with a rude counter running across it, and a few ruder wooden shelves stuck up around without any regard whatever to regularity. The floor is a damp, cold earthen one, and, but for the different goods which are to be seen piled up in a most slovenly manner about the place, one could think of nothing save a prison, or a dreary cell of some wretched anchorite. There are not five exceptions (as regards retailers) to this description in the whole street, while the occupant's mode of dealing is even worse than his shop. Thorough rogues and Jews themselves, they consider all others in the same light, and act accordingly, beginning by asking you a double price for the article wanted, and then, through fifty different mean operations, palming short measure and bad change upon you. I speak honestly my sentiments in these assertions, knowing as I do every native shopkeeper in the Calle Real, and I could not, conscientiously, make six exceptions in all to the above. It might do to cheat a customer of an inch or so out of two or three yards' length of old English measure or of a French aun, but from the pitiful, curtailed Spanish vara, such an act is unpardonable!

The great staples in dry goods here are bayeta, a coarse woollen cloth, of a dark blue colour, worn universally by the poorer classes; common cotton shirting, very highly starched, got up by the British expressly for this market; flashy prints and muslins, of French, British, and American manufacture, the British being generally preferred; light French and British cloths, black, blue, or deep brown colours, &c. Their choice of colours differs entirely from that of the people of Mexico, the West India Islands, or even of their own seacoast, and is much more chaste. Where an article is of one colour, they seldom choose either red, deep green, yellow, or crimson; but chocolate, deep mulberry,

maroon, or cinnamon colours are always preferred for silks, satins, ribands, and velvets. No market, probably, in all the south has more trash of foreign goods than Bogotá, which proceeds, no doubt, from the constant demand for cheap articles here, quality being but rarely considered. Almost the whole tribe of shopkeepers at present in Bogotá owe their origin to the foreign merchant. Formerly they might be seen peddling their various wares in the streets, accoutred in the ruana and grass sandals. They are very saving and attentive to business; but when their capital has reached a certain height, they can go no farther; like Paddy with his basket of oranges, when one is sold out they just purchase another. The only Bogotano in business who keeps a regular set of account-books is Señor R. Santa Maria!

When goods are purchased in this place, and the amount exceeds ten or twenty dollars, an obligation is given on stamped paper, payable at such a date; binding the parties, with all the goods and chattels then in their possession or hereafter to be acquired, body and estate, and this without any benefit which, as citizens, they might have over foreigners, &c. But no correct calculation can be made on their paying at the time stated. They consider it merely as a sworn acknowledgment of the debt, and no more. For this reason, and as there are no banks, and payments slow and uncertain, all such paper is of little or no business use; although, when money is hired, such notes are often received as security. I once asked one such for the payment of his obligation; but he told me to call again in a week or two. "But," said I, "it has already been due full two weeks." "I shall not break before then, as you foreigners do in your own country whenever you wish to make money," was his answer, and the only satisfaction I could then obtain. In this way

credits are not unfrequently lengthened out so as to treble their first run; and but few, very few foreign merchants are ever enabled to get wholly clear from the country when once their goods have been exchanged for a New-Grenadian's paper obligations; while their total lack of good faith, even towards one another, renders it, in their opinion, less objectionable to trick a foreigner. A cash business is the only one advisable in a country like this, and is much more easily accomplished here than in many others; for, as their currency is purely metallic, and is always kept about them, without gaining one penny interest, therefore, provided they really wish to purchase, and the goods are offered sufficiently below the credit prices to make it an object to buy them, they would prefer giving you the cash at the time of purchase.

The *Boticas*, or apothecary shops, all succeed well, and do an excellent business. There are three large and well-conducted ones, besides several others of lesser note. One of the former is kept by a Frenchman, who, it is presumed, has thereby realized thirty thousand dollars in a few years. A thorough-bred Bogotano is for ever ailing in some way or other, notwithstanding his fine climate; and no wonder, when a potation of strong chocolate, accompanied with a segar, and this repeated three or four times a day, is all many of them live upon for days together, especially whenever they have the slightest fancy that something is the matter with their head! As to the balance of the body corporate, they seldom give it a thought, believing that every evil in the system takes its rise in the head. If they wish to remedy a foul stomach, they bind a handkerchief about the head; so, likewise, for a complaint of the spine or liver, while the feet are left entirely exposed!

You may see women going along in a heavy, chill

rain, barefooted, but the head carefully wrapped, first, in a stout cotton handkerchief, then in a thick mantilla of coarse cloth, and over all a heavy felt or straw hat! There are fifty chances to one that the first person you meet in the street, with his face or manner betokening disease, even should the handkerchief not be in requisition at the time, if you inquire of him his complaint, will answer, "dolor de la cabeza," "pain in the head."

Hotels.—There is nothing of this kind in Bogotá! I do not believe there is a single other city of equal size in the civilized world without one! There are two or three eating-houses; the only passable one being kept by a mulatto from the States, who told me he tried a hotel in one of the largest houses in the place, but it would not pay. It is certainly a great inconvenience, to strangers especially; and the reason is the want of sufficient patronage, which proceeds from the extreme penuriousness and spunging disposition of the people in the hilly districts. In this they differ as widely from their countrymen of Carthagena as if they belonged to another nation.

One of these gentry, on a journey, makes not the slightest scruple of helping himself wherever the least previous acquaintance warrants a free entry, and wo betide a poor relative should his house lie on his route! Among the better class of young men here, nothing is so delightful as to be invited to enjoy a little shooting excursion, or pic nic in the country, when "un estrangero" (foreigner) is to make one of the party. For, if they contribute a dulce or two, some segars, and a few cakes of chocolate, the whole burden of purchasing and preparing fowls, hams, liquors, wines, and sundry other more costly knickknacks, is sure to fall upon "el buen Ingleso" ("the good Englishman"), or "nuestro hermano del Norte" ("our northern brother").

In speaking of shops, I should have remarked

that there is not much hardship attendant upon keeping a retail store in the Calle Real. They generally open at about eight or nine o'clock in the morning, and close doors at twelve, reopening them at two, and shut them finally a little before sunset. The apothecaries and grogshops alone keep open after dark. Many women keep shops, some on their own account, and others are set up in this mode of life by their relations, and, not unfrequently, by their paramours. There are but two or three native merchants of any wealth or note. Money is daily getting more and more scarce, and fortunes are not quite so easily made as in many other countries of much easier access. The great public loan from England, and the unlimited individual credit in the early days of the republic, when the impression abroad was strong concerning the great wealth and immense resources of the country, only to be exceeded by the pure patriotism and good faith of the people, gave a seeming tone and strength to commerce which it in reality never possessed. This has since passed away, leaving the republic to her own resources, which, if well fostered, and if, at the same time, a somewhat better disposition should become apparent in regard to cancelling both national and private claims, New-Grenada may yet stand out a flourishing country, even in spite of religious intolerance.

The *market* is held weekly, on Fridays, in the great square. Although more or less can be purchased there every day in the week, yet Friday is the great day when the country-people flock in by thousands, presenting a scene picturesque and animated in the extreme. The place is about 300 feet square, and on these occasions is crowded, literally, to excess. The busiest time is from 8 to 10 A. M. Much order is observed in the arrangement of the different kinds of provisions, which, for

the most part, are spread along on the pavement in rows, following the form of the square. Vegetables, grains, and fruits of all kinds are generally placed together. The butchers have small stalls, where excellent beef, mutton, and pork are dealt out at very low rates.*

Then comes the poultry, eggs, and butter; woodenwares, red earthenwares, baskets, &c. Next, the coarse fabrics of the country; such as striped cottons, unbleached do., ruanas, straw hats, hammocks, and sandals, &c.; while amid all this melée, and the deafening hum of barter, one finds not the tenth part of the brawling and fighting, nor the obscene language which a Billingsgate and other European markets daily display. And yet here are bond and free, black and white, Indian, Spaniard, half-breeds, soldier, Jew, Catholic, and Protestant, all shoving their way through, and bargaining as if life and death were at issue. Many ladies attend with their servants; but the latter are more frequently sent alone, redounding greatly to the loss of their employers; for there is no dependance to be put in their honesty. I have known a friend of mine lose from ten to twenty dollars in this way during a single month, as the rascal afterward confessed he had been carrying on the same game for some time. No market, being such a distance from the coast, can boast of a richer or greater variety than is found here. There are fruits and vegetables of the hot, cold, and temperate regions; and fresh, too, from their native soil! Oranges, lemons, pine-apples, pomegranates, mangoes, the delicious cheremoya, melons of various kinds, strawberries, &c. The apples are the only sort of fruit that is quite indifferent, being small and very tasteless. Cauliflow-

* Beef, from 8 to 9 reals the arroba; mutton, per carcass, 6 reals; fowls, 1 to 1½ reals; turkeys, from 3 to 6, &c.

ons, egg-plants, potatoes, cabbages, artichokes, and the whole family of vegetables, are here in the greatest perfection. The poultry is exceedingly fine, and so would be their beef, but the ignoramuses spoil it by taking away every particle of fat to mix with the tallow for candles. The mutton is only passable. Veal and lamb I never saw, as they do not kill their young cattle. Few hides are brought to this market, but are to be procured farther down the country. My friend, Mr. Gooding, is now engaged in buying up the sheepskins, which come in very plentifully, and preparing them for the United States' market. I bought, occasionally, some fine goatskins, but in no great numbers.

A fine view of this market is to be had from the Cathedral steps, on the tolling of whose bell for morning mass on a market-day there is a general rush to the church, which forms an animated tableau; so, also, on the single tolling of the bell, which announces the elevation of the Host, when all heads are uncovered in an instant, and business for the time wholly suspended. The poultry is brought in to market on the backs of Indians in little coops. The squaws carry tremendous loads of various commodities, having a broad band attached to the load which encircles the forehead, and then, bowing forward, they continue on in the short jog-trot so peculiar to that race.

Butter is put up in pound rolls between the green leaves of plantain, and is certainly very far from being nice! It has to be well worked over and cleansed before eating. There is a Frenchman now in Bogotá who supplies foreigners with rather a cleaner article, though he leaves still much room for improvement.

Living.—Their style of cooking is peculiarly their own. I speak thus, as I have never been in Spain nor in any other Spanish province before.

If it be Spanish, then Heaven defend me from all such. Their chocolate, and a dish called "masamora," with any of their thousand and one "dulces" or preserves, are all that can be mentioned in favour of native cookery. In the houses of the more fashionable and opulent, the dishes generally are a mixture of the French and English; more, however, of the former. But the daily rations of a peon (labourer) are soon described. If he keeps house, his breakfast rarely consists of chocolate. A soup of boiled rice, and a vegetable like the parsnip, called arracacha, all simmered together in a flood of hog's-lard, the whole highly coloured with a pod they call achota, which produces a yellow colour; a handful of cumin-seed is added to this, and then they have prepared their general breakfast. Sometimes, when circumstances admit, they add to their rice a few pieces of meat. Bread, being high, is seldom used, but its place is supplied by either a sort of hard dumpling, made of Indian cornmeal, called "boya," or the casava bread. Another great national dish is that of "masamora." This is a thick soup, made of Indian cornmeal, potatoes boiled to a jelly, onions, and pieces of beef; which, when free from the cumin-seed, is a most excellent dish. There is no such thing as a fork used by this class of the people, and but, perhaps, a single knife at table, which serves not the purposes of eating, but is used for scraping vegetables and preparing their food; a spoon, and a liberal use of nature's own flesh-forks, constitute all their table cutlery. The plantain is never out of the houses of either rich or poor. They eat it fried, roasted, boiled, and raw; and it is their great staple, though not to be compared with those on the Magdalena. Chicha is in general use. This is peculiarly the drink of the poor, although I have seen even foreigners use it. It is kept in huge earthen jars, wrapped round with green hide

to preserve them; it sells for about four or six cents a quart. A large tinuma (calabash) is filled, which is passed round from one to another throughout even a large company!

The middling and better classes cannot be called even ordinary good livers. The few respectable foreigners here, and about three or four Bogotanos, are the only individuals who come within my ideas of comfort in the whole place. The great body of the community are wretchedly poor; and if, in the course of any lucky hit in trade, gambling, or otherwise, an individual of these becomes the possessor of wealth, he still continues to live on amid the same kitchen arrangements as before, filthy though they are. His dress he may change; the ruana will be thrown aside for a broadcloth cloak, and a beaver substituted for the low-crowned, slouched straw hat, and he will keep a good horse; but as to his home, not a real comfort marks his ability to obtain them. Indeed, the word "comfort," in its truest sense and general acceptation, is not to be found in all his vocabulary; therefore not a fork, not an additional article would be added to his table, nor a single improvement be thought of throughout his wretched household! When he is free from "dolor de la cabeza," he will sip his small cup of red-hot chocolate, made as thick as possible of the cocoa and sugar, the very first thing on rising in the morning; then he will light a segar, and take a turn on horseback. From eight to nine he breakfasts on arracacha soup, or rice well greased; fried eggs, seasoned with garlic; boiled potatoes, bread, and a dish of fried beef, which is cut into small strips, without a particle of fat, seasoned well with cumin-seed and garlic, and so overdone that the juices of the meat are entirely dried up; this they eat with a spoon. These people are also fond of a dish called bollo; it looks like an apple-dumpling, and is made with pieces of pork,

and seasoned like the dried beef, and well smothered in hog's-lard, all enclosed in a thick paste and boiled. The coffee and chocolate are not drank with their meat, but immediately afterward, and then the same small cup is made use of as in the morning. The disgusting habit of a whole family using one red earthen goblet or tituma in common for drinking from is universally prevalent. Their dinner varies but little from the breakfast. Their hour of dining is from one to two; and a "dulce" of some kind is invariably added. Pork is of very general use among them, while they seem nearly unacquainted with mutton. Plantains and arracachas are seldom to be missed at table, these being their two staple vegetables; the latter, a very tasteless sort of thing, yields most abundantly; indeed, more so than any vegetable I ever saw, and would, no doubt, be a great acquisition to any country. The milk brought to market is shockingly bad, and is generally boiled to prevent it from souring. In short, their whole living is of the most miserable description. The wines generally used are wretched claret, and a sort of mixture made in the country from brandy and sweet Malaga, in imitation of Teneriffe. Those who can afford it import their own wine; and, if brought up the river in wood, the barrel containing it should be enclosed in a box, to prevent the bogas from draining it. Tolerable port or Madeira is here worth forty dollars a demijohn of five gallons; brandy thirty-five; English porter sometimes finds its way here, and is worth twelve dollars a dozen for the best. Several attempts have been made to brew a good kind of ale; but, up to this date, with very indifferent success. An English farrier and blacksmith, named Sayres, has built a large brewery, and intends making a fair trial; and no doubt he will succeed, as most excellent crops of barley can be got from the plains. The natives use a variety of sweet drinks,

such as orgeat, raspberry, &c. The anniseed brandy, home-manufactured, is very good when well made and of sufficient age, that of Mompox being the best.

At supper, a bowl of "masamora" is generally taken before retiring for the night, and is washed down with "chicha," combined with which it forms a complete opiate. Those who can afford the luxury take tea or chocolate before this, about seven in the evening. Tea is beginning to be much used now, but it is difficult to procure it good even at three dollars per pound.

The servants who wait at table are dirty-looking drabs. The coarse cloth outer petticoat which they wear is scarcely ever removed, day or night, until it is absolutely necessary to supply its place by a new one.

Dress.—The poorest is that worn by the common peones. That of the men consists of a straw hat, with a broad brim and high, tapering crown; a loose pair of trousers of very coarse mixed or plain white cotton goods, manufactured in the country; a shirt of the same material, and over all a short ruana of the coarsest cotton or woollen cloth, sometimes parti-coloured and sometimes plain drab. This national coat is from one and a half to two and a half yards square, with an aperture left in the centre just of sufficient width to admit the head. It is of two different sizes; the short one, being worn by the peones and by men on horseback, only covering the small of the back, and reaching a little below the elbow; and the larger one, which falls down to the calf of the leg, and entirely conceals the whole arm. They are manufactured of wool, cotton, or silk, and the prices of them vary from four reals to sixty dollars cash, and are of every hue and colour; but, whenever they are made parti-coloured, it is always in stripes,

and are never dotted or clouded. They are manufactured also from the caucha (India-rubber cloth) and oiled silk for rainy weather. The use of them incommodes the freedom of one's hand very much, and it employs a naturally lazy peon, while dressed with one of the longer ones, the full half of his time to keep the barbarous thing out of his way while at work! The poorest class of peones do not even wear sandals. The women don a full petticoat of the bayeta, with nothing else to cover the shoulders, when the mantilla is removed, but a coarse under garment.

Their mantilla is merely a square piece of the same material as the petticoat, thrown over the head and descending barely to the waist, on the top of which they not unfrequently stick a man's straw hat.

Mechanics, the first class of house-servants, and low shopkeepers, wear the finer and long ruana, with finer shirt, trousers, and hat, with the addition of sandals, and often of shoes and stockings. The females of this class wear calico dresses, finer mantillas, shoes, and stockings. Many still wear that abominable round hat, only to be found in this capital, which is of silk plush or beaver, from seven to nine inches high, and perfectly round, with the tip tapering like a sugarloaf, and a brim from three to four inches wide. This is placed on the very crown of the head, over the mantilla; and but for the huge comb that supports it, just as a peg does a hat on the wall, it could never be carried safely along. As it is, they move under it exactly like a dairymaid under a pail of milk, the slightest inclination of the head being sufficient to cause its fall; who, without this useless appendage (which actually does not descend one eighth of an inch upon her head), would otherwise move forward in all the majesty and grace of a Spanish female. They fre-

quently carry them in front by the brim, with either one or both hands—the fittest place for them. A small silk shawl is often added to this costume.

Another class, called the "cachacao," or dandies, have cast aside the national ruana except when they ride, on which occasion all, foreigners and others, use them, and attire themselves in round jackets of cloth, with vest and pantaloons of the same, and boots, shoes, and hat. Yet it is but very recently that one in a hundred out of even this class wore anything but the straw hat, though of the finest material, which cost from sixteen to forty dollars. They will wash, and wear a man's lifetime, provided the oilcloth be slipped over them in rainy weather. When they go abroad, a wide Spanish cloak is thrown over their dress, made, for the most part, of blue cloth. It is amusing to catch one of these fellows in his round jacket in a room where are assembled strangers and others wearing dress or frock coats! Good breeding will not allow him to retain his cloak, and shame prevents him from throwing it entirely aside; so he uncovers merely the shoulders, taking good care all the while to keep the folds closely drawn around him, so as to conceal the curtailed parts of his upper garment, and carefully avoids getting up from his seat without his friendly wrap-rascal hugged close about him!

With the females of this class, a petticoat of fine black bombasin is substituted for the bayeta, or a gown of any fine and dashing figure, white being not unfrequently worn. The mantilla is of very fine black or blue cloth, bound with riband or velvet. In walking, they cross their arms just where the folds descend to the waist. During fine weather, a large silk or merino shawl is worn in lieu of the mantilla, but never at church, where they invariably present themselves arrayed in the black petticoat

and dark mantilla. In the evening or in a journey on horseback, a low-crowned, broad-brimmed straw hat is worn, the points drooping, and banded with a wide riband.

The few genteel people here copy exclusively the French and English costumes, with the single exception of the ladies' bonnets. This year, however, the use of this article has increased fourfold, although the prejudice against them is great. Jewellery, though formerly much worn in Bogotá, is not so now. At present, any family almost will part willingly with their jewels, if they can get a fair price for them. By this means the best pearls and the finest old gold chains have been transported to Europe; a few good emeralds are still to be found here. Finger-rings make the greatest display; but they are generally very badly set. A great deal of false jewellery is worn, in the shape of large, ugly-looking earrings and the like.

Modes of Conveyance.—One's choice in this respect can be always very readily made. A horse or a mule, unless the back of the humbler donkey be preferred, is all the variety afforded. There are but three close carriages in the whole capital: one belonging to the archbishop, another to Señor Morales, and the third to President Santander; and only two or three light pleasure-wagons and gigs; these comprise the whole stock in trade. The best one among them, that of the president, is in appearance like a common hack, greatly the worse for wear. When any of these are out, crowds collect to see them as they bounce over the uneven Bogotá pavements. A journey to the mouth of the mountains, beyond Facutativa, nine leagues, might possibly be performed in one of them, but neither very easily nor with much speed. One or two carts are owned by individuals, which pay two reals every time they enter the paved

city; for what reason I cannot divine. Certainly not for disturbing the equilibrium of the huge round stones of about ten pounds' weight that line the streets. A mule is preferable to a horse in crossing the mountains, although some choose the latter, but more on account of speed than safety. A mule seems formed expressly for mountain travel; but on the fine, level plains of Bogotá, a good horse is the thing. The value of a horse is determined by his speed in pacing or ambling. If two animals are offered in the market of similar years, height, weight, and appearance, with no other difference than that one is a *trotter* and the other a *pacer*, the latter will bring two hundred dollars, while the former would not fetch over thirty.

Gentlemen have a singular mode here of riding. For two or three miles they go at the very top of the animal's speed; then, suddenly checking their horses, they light a segar and commence a short conversation on a slow walk. Again, as unexpectedly striking in their broad spurs, they scamper off, like the wind itself, for the distance of another league. A party of friends riding thus, arrayed, as they generally are, in ruanas of every kind and colour, presents a most striking and gay appearance. A person is considered to be in very poor standing indeed who does not ride more or less. I never saw ladies riding except on a journey. The side-saddle of the country is formed like an armchair, being covered with red cloth, and having the arms silver mounted. It is an ungainly-looking article, and not deemed half so pleasant as the English model. The gentleman's is made high both before and behind, like that of a trooper's.

The price of good mules is always uniform, and much higher in proportion than that of horses. A fine black mule, from about fourteen to fifteen

hands high, tractable, and speedy in his gait, will bring frequently from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars. I saw the one which belonged to Bolivar, a fine-looking animal. The common price for a good mule is from thirty to forty dollars when in their prime. Bulls are used to bring fuel and various burdens into the city, as well as for ploughing, &c.

The *Alameda*, or Public Walk, lies at the foot of the eminence on which the city is built, in the San Victorino, leading out to San Diego, and is much frequented on Sunday afternoons. It is a broad road, ditched and hedged in on either side, and might be much improved was there but a little more taste and energy among the people. At present the fine rose-hedges are nearly all gone, and a beautiful copse, which bordered a part of the same, has lately been cut down! And, worse than all, the stranger is here again disgusted on every hand with the want of cleanliness among the low people, which all the sweet perfume of the flowers cannot make up for. The walk is about a mile or so long. They are not very great walkers here, and a short turn suffices. Here the view being clear from all intervening houses, one has a fine sight of the range of hills which back the city; Guadaloupe and Montserrate, with their misty tops, look highly beautiful.

Gardens are not much attended to. My friend Señor Santa Maria has the best, and his does not even reach mediocrity. In most of the courtyards of the best houses there is a small parterre for flowers; but they can boast of but few varieties. Pinks and carnations nearly monopolize the whole space. Of these I never saw finer specimens, and the kinds of them are endless. They have no dahlias.

Dogs.—If we are to judge of a nation or an in-

dividual by their dogs, as some have averred we ought, the conclusion would not be very favourable to New-Grenada: for a more miserable-looking set of curs cannot anywhere exist, and their name is Legion. Each wretched Indian owns his one, two, or three dogs. The government is obliged to employ a gang of prisoners, guarded by soldiers, to thin them occasionally. They set upon them with clubs, lances, and lassos; and their greatest glory is to get hold of some large, fine-looking dog belonging to a foreigner or rich native. I saved, luckily, a very fine animal, which belonged to an English friend, just as one of these fellows was coiling up his lasso to noose him.

New-Grenada is rich in every species of *mines*; but I do not think that any, with the exception of the salt-mines of Zipaquira, repay the expenses of working. The emerald-mines of Mousa may yet be profitable; though, up to this time, the very bungling manner in which they are worked is a great loss to the country. The owner, Señor Paris, pays a small yearly rental for them, and his lease has yet some time to run. They do not understand getting out the stones, and, consequently, break and destroy the most splendid ones. I am confident that, by having proper tools and competent workmen, a fortune might be realized in these mines. Young Señor Paris showed me a stone that had just the rough part cleared from it, and was about one and three quarter inches by nearly an inch in size, and weighing some hundred and odd carats! Its colour was the most deep and brilliant green, with but few flaws, and those of a minor kind. Señor P. also presented me with a fine specimen of the stone in its native rocky bed. Having an English lapidary in my employ, I bought a few stones and had them cut. He also cut a few very fine ones for Mr. Paris; but the latter refused to

sell these, stating as a reason that he meant to go to Europe and satisfy himself of their real value, as foreign purchasers had heretofore, he believed, only given for them but half their worth.

The silver-mines of Santa Anna are in the hands of an English company, who injured themselves by the extravagant manner in which they set out, coming directly to the country fully equipped with men, tools, and everything else on the most extravagant scale—all calculated entirely for an English meridian. At Honda I have seen enough of these stores yet remaining to commence mining operations throughout the whole country, rotting to pieces, when the fine cordage and such things might readily have been turned to good account in Carthagena. I am told that even now they manage most sadly at the mines, and that they never can pay under existing circumstances. The salt company pay a yearly rent to government of 96,000 dollars, and produce over 20,000 bushels per month, having the exclusive right of vending the article, for which they receive seven reals the arroba for fine, and six and a half do. for the rock salt.* The company is made up of English and natives. Zipaquira, where the works are, may contain five or six thousand inhabitants, with a guard of soldiers to protect the rights of the company. There is a good church there, but no society whatever. The Indians of the surrounding country consider the monopoly of the salt by government as very unjust, and it certainly is a most burdensome tax upon one of the very first necessaries of life.

Amethyst, topaz, jet, carnelians, and agates are all found in different parts of the country. So also are lead, copper, and other ores. Of coal, both anthracite and bituminous, there is no lack, at about

* The government have since taken the management into their own hands.

one day's journey from the capital. The former I have myself used, and pronounce it equal to the very best in the United States.

Education still makes but slow progress among the great mass of the people. One great point is, however, already gained, viz., the keeping of such schools as are now formed, outside of the convent walls, and beyond the domination of the priesthood, who, although they do not at this day war openly against a free and general system of education, still they do not exactly approve of it; and these possess, at the same time, many ways of setting afoot a counter current, which, if not watched, may yet become the strongest stream. I found that a much larger proportion of the children of both sexes attended the schools in Barranquilla and Mompox than in the capital. Primary books have been forwarded gratuitously from the United States, where great anxiety is manifested for the promotion of juvenile instruction in this country.

A finer-looking set of young men, or of more noble and open features, I never saw anywhere than among the students who attend the two colleges here. I have gazed down upon them during some one of the numerous processions wherein they were acting their part, and remarked to a friend, "there go the manly fellows who, backed by a liberal course of study, shall yet cause a brighter day to dawn upon their benighted country." Their dress is very appropriate—the real Salamanca cap and black cloth cloak. One class wear a red, and the other a white scarf thrown across the shoulder. I cannot say where they all came from, but, certainly, they had the appearance of being the very pick and flower of the New-Grenadian youth. I observed also that there was less Indian blood among them. Shades and hues of every variety in complexion are met with here. Certainly not one eighth of the pop-

ulation are of pure white blood. The Indian mixture predominates. The males mostly have very sallow complexions, and are lean and ill made, while nothing can be more striking than the difference between them and the females. Finer forms and more beautiful complexions, even in the full half-breeds, I never saw. The universal report respecting beautiful feet is in no way an exaggeration here. Their step is bold yet graceful; and although the murderous stay or corset be scarcely known among them, yet nothing can exceed the exactness of their carriage, their persons having just enough of "en bon point," and no more. Their address is easy, without boldness or French frippery; and they lack but the morals and education of my own fair countrywomen to make them divinities indeed.

As none can be born slaves since the year 1819, slavery will soon become extinct in this republic.

CHAPTER V.

Morals.—Opinions of Hamilton.—British Burying-ground.—Archbishop and Clergy of Bogotá.—The Host.—The Affair of the Custodia. — Religious Processions.—Semana Santa.—Concluding Ceremony in the Cathedral.—All Saints' Day.—Bull Fights. —Fireworks.

MANY and contradictory have been both the written and verbal reports respecting the state of morals in Bogotá; some have affirmed them to be of the very worst order, while others say that they are no worse than in other places. Of this latter opinion was a celebrated English writer, Mr. Hamilton. If Mr. H. means us to infer from this that morals in

the capital of New-Grenada are just on a par with those in other Spanish cities on this Southern Continent, I dare say he is right, and he should thus have expressed himself. But when he plainly says, "I believe they can boast of nearly as much virtue as the European ladies," I feel assured he spoke, to say the least of it, very inconsiderately, especially when we reflect that he first breathed the pure and virtuous atmosphere of Britain. But Mr. H. was a diplomatist; an ambassador sent to the country to secure, as was thought at the time, great and important commercial advantages to his sovereign and to his native land. Granting this, could he not have managed to gloss over the scenes, which must have fallen under his immediate observation every day of his residence in Bogotá, in some more appropriate manner than by instituting a comparison of things as entirely opposite as light and darkness? And further, during the fourteen years which have elapsed since the visit of this writer, morals, instead of deteriorating, have greatly improved; for, at that time, a duly legalized marriage between two citizens of the province was a very rare occurrence. Many respectable people, at present living in Bogotá, and heads of families, were not then bound together by the sacred ties of matrimony, but have since been united by mother church. Vice dares not now so openly bare her deformed front as in the days of the first English commissioner to the Columbian republic, although great room is still left for improvement.

When the infant child of General Santander, which died shortly after its birth, was buried, the words "legitimate child of" made part of the monumental inscription. This speaks volumes on the subject. The great evil resulting from a misstatement like this is, that many (going to that country on business) may be induced, unless it be plainly and boldly contradicted, to take with them their wives

and families. Would to Heaven that our more fashionable European tourists, who visit the filthy hotbeds of a Naples or a Rome, would but hold up to the public one hundredth part of the black vices they there constantly witness, so as to beacon the unwary from off the hidden quicksands. But this cannot be expected from those deluded beings who drag with them to such scenes their dearest hopes, the wives and daughters of their heart and bosom. Besides, it might bring them into disgrace with the fashionable world, before whose demon shrine they dare offer up virtue, truth, and national honour!

To premise: I wish it to be distinctly understood, by every candid and intelligent reader, that I neither harbour the slightest ill-will, nor intend the smallest offence to any individual of Bogotá or of the Catholic faith. My duty is plainly to state such simple and unvarnished facts as have either come directly under my own observation, or what any unprejudiced and respectable foreigner, resident in Bogotá, will attest as inferences duly weighed and applied.

Nothing tends to keep people more in the background in this matter than the servile representations of pretended historians. Bring the facts, stripped of all mystery and concealment, forth before the great bar of public opinion, and try whether its censure be not more beneficial than all the counsellings and labour of the few virtuous souls here, who for years back have been striving, and still do strive, to beget a better spirit in their mistaken and deluded countrymen.

The boasted republic of New-Grenada concedes nothing more to Protestant residents or citizens than freedom from open persecution. They cannot erect any chapels, but are allowed to meet for purposes of devotion in their own houses. The British stipulated for a burial-place; and, at this time, have a very neat one here, near the alameda, by San

Diego. It is small, and surrounded by a circular wall; the approach being through a little garden, while at the entrance stands a very nice cottage, at a little distance from the road, which is occupied by an English family, who have the use of it and the grounds for the care of the burial-place. The minister, Mr. Turner, very kindly allows the Protestants of any other nation to bury here also.

But think not, ye who bask in the rays of more equal laws, that such burial as is here permitted has aught to do with the bustle of preparation, the openly expressed grief of bereaved friends, or with that grave and outward circumstance which attends the committing of "dust to dust" among yourselves; and which, on the departure of the esteemed and loved, tends so much to sooth and tranquillize the feelings of the living! Ah, no! The following little narrative is one of many which will fully testify to the contrary.

On the 23d of January, 1837, died the infant son of a family in my employ. The poor babe had been sickly from its birth, and the few brief weeks of its existence had called forth all the incessant cares and watchfulness of both parents. On the morning in question I was sitting by its bedside, and in the act of leaning over to watch any symptom there might yet be of hope to the afflicted mother, when one short and gentle breath, which was scarcely audible as it trembled for a moment on the pale, tender lip, told me that the pure spirit had for ever fled its brief abiding-place. Mr. Turner being absent from the city, leave to bury the child was obtained from his secretary, Mr. Adams. A coffin was procured from the American cabinet-maker, and the next morning, the 24th, saw our small funeral party emerge from the broad doorway of our house into the street, and wend its way to the little lonely churchyard. I had been advised by both English

and American friends to make as little parade as possible, and to finish the ceremony early, before the rabble were astir. But it was eight o'clock A. M. before each little preparation was made and we were ready to move forward. To render the procession as unmarked as possible, I allowed only the father of the child and two others of my people to accompany it; my servant-lad, Chepe, carrying the little coffin concealed underneath his ruana. Thus, like thieves stealing upon their plunder, did we thread our way through the most unfrequented streets until we arrived at the consecrated ground; luckily for our own feelings, and especially for those of the poor parent, the complete concealment of the coffin preserved us from insult; and it was only when turning into the yard from the by-street that we saw two peones gazing on the scene and making the sign of the cross, as the worst of all infections to them is the sight or touch of the dead body of a heretic, even though it be of an innocent babe like this, the pure and perfect symbol of the religion of Him they thus insult by their idle mummery. I read over the little grave the beautiful service for the dead of the Episcopal Church. The earth closed over the coffin, and in all haste we departed. I have witnessed the shrouding of the dead, under many forms and varied circumstances, both on sea and land, but I never felt my whole soul so weighed down and distressed as when, surrounded by the din and bustle of a Christian-termed city containing 30,000 souls, the body of this pure and disenfranchised spirit, born of Christian parents, and dying ere it could even have been thought culpable for the heretic parents' opinions, was committed to the dark womb of earth in the same manner as though it had been the victim of an assassin's steel, and by the foul murderer himself, during the lonely midnight hour.

The Archbishop of Bogotá, who is the head of the church in New-Grenada, I believe to be a most

worthy individual, not very bigoted, and a sincere desirer of a better state of morals among the clergy than now exists; but the customs of centuries are too strong even for him. Here and there a point may be gained; still the progress of reformation is at least slow, if not doubtful in the main. Of what use, moreover, is it to cleanse the stream when the fountain is corrupt? An individual priest or two may be reformed through the direct influence of a holy life and the ghostly counsel of the superior; but reformation can neither become general nor secure, when not an article or figure in that code which admits such unhallowed licenses is done away.

Those of the clergy of Bogotá who choose live in open adultery; at times with one woman only, when the children are brought up and openly acknowledged by them. True, they take a house, furnish it, and in every possible way provide for the poor ignorant creatures as if they were truly their lawful wives, which so far palliates, if this, indeed, can be called palliation, such unchristian, as well as uncatholic-like conduct. Their mates are generally chosen from among the better portion of the lower orders, although not unfrequently they are of a higher grade.

The monks, on the other hand, being obliged to live within their convents, generally choose their female domestics with the greatest possible regard to personal appearance, and thus the end is the same. The civil arm is the only check upon the grossness and presumption of the indolent hive; and government is certainly commendable for the promptitude and tact with which they have, within a few years, clipped the wings of these gallinazas (a Bogotá nickname for friars, meaning turkey-buzzards). Yet have they to move with great circumspection, lest the strong arm of the rabble, hound-

ed on by monkish vengeance, defeat all, and leave a state of things even worse than prevailed during the time of the Spaniards. To avoid this, any alteration desired is made to appear as "vox populi," the wish of the lawgivers themselves. For instance, a convent is suppressed because the requisite number for constituting a fraternity is not complete by one, and the act of suppression follows so close the death of a brother as to preclude the election of another in his place! Various rents and revenues of the church have been applied to popular purposes, and the stated salaries of her officers nipped away by degrees, until they are, at present, probably about what they should be were the number of recipients but reduced one half. They occasionally, however, kick against these encroachments. One day, during the present Congress, when a bill was before the house for the reduction of the salaries of such of the clergy as were not in actual parochial service, a friar, a member of the house, objected to it, of course. But what, think ye, were the reasons he urged against the measure? Why, he said, "what shall we do with our families? we cannot support them on such a pittance!!" To which the member for the motion made this short and pithy reply: "Families! the church allows you none!!" Not a word more was offered by the friar, while a settled smile upon the faces of all present spoke well for the safety of the republic in this particular, inasmuch as it proved the hearty concurrence of its chiefs in determining that the executive should rule in this, as well as in every other measure adopted for the general weal.

As sermons are rarely or never given, a curé has not to labour as hard as his brethren in the United States. During a residence of nearly a year in Bogotá, there were but four sermons preached that I heard of, one of which I attended. I

found the oratory good, but the subject intolerable; the whole going to show that the devil was, in truth, a real matter-of-fact-sort-of-personage, perching his ugly carcass upon the shoulders of unbelievers, and hissing them on to the neglect of alms, penance, and every other duty enjoined by blessed mother church. There was not one single sentiment uttered throughout the discourse that was capable of purifying and ennobling the heart. While upon this subject, I would state further, that when the arrival of the pope's nuncio was announced at Carthagena in January, '37, as ambassador from his holiness to the Republic of New-Grenada, the Government Gazette immediately made it plainly known, through the medium of its columns, "that the national head, by virtue of the constitution, could receive no credentials to treat with the holy father by his nuncio, since, while they acknowledged the holy father as their great spiritual head, their allegiance went no farther; that his excellency, in short, could treat with the archbishop on any matters relative to the church in New-Grenada, while all due honour and respect should be paid by the government to one so high in the graces of his holiness." Methinks there is too much straightforward sound sense in this to suit the chair of St. Peter!

Although the services of religion are so much attended by the women, who are very regular in their observance of mass and saints' days, yet the effect upon their lives is not very apparent, and the dread of the confessional alone binds them to an endless routine of hollow forms totally apart from the true spirit of religion, which should refine the mind and heart, and improve us in the practice of virtue. Most of the educated males are open scoffers and atheists at heart, passing jokes upon the mummeries of the priests without taking any pains to conceal it. The presence of the Host is the only

thing for which they seem to have a uniform reverence, devoutly kneeling and crossing themselves whenever it makes its appearance. This carrying about of the Host is a very great annoyance to strangers, as it is to be met with constantly. A small bell, borne on before, gives warning of its approach. The bell of the Cathedral also tolls; and its supporters walk so fast that one must run in order to avoid it. A priest forms part of the procession, walking under a canopy, while others chant the services. Two soldiers generally guard it. Flowers are strewed around the door of the house in which the sick person in whose behalf it is sent lies. If the afflicted individual be wealthy, or otherwise of note, the archbishop himself accompanies it; while a band of martial music and a full company of soldiers swell the group. This does not often happen, as it costs a very considerable sum of money. Upon passing and repassing the great square, the military in the barracks turn out to do it honour upon a particular blast of the bugle being given. The woman whom I mentioned as having had her infant buried was once encountered in a by-street by the Host; and as she happened to have her child in her arms, she could neither make speed enough to get out of the way, nor could she see any place to enter and conceal herself. So, all bonneted as she was, she stood still to let it pass; while, poor woman! the rabble not only called her the most lewd and fiendish names, but even spat upon her repeatedly! So much for the Host in Bogotá! But what can be expected from a people among whom female virtue is at such an amazing low ebb as in this polluted capital?

Let us look at it as we may, female virtue will be found the true touchstone of all that is noble, and generous, and lovely among a great and free people. It is the very nerve and sinew of all their

institutions! and why should it not be? Surely that is but little worth the fighting for or troubling with which carries uncertainty in its train. Although the outward appearances of licentiousness are, in a slight degree, guarded against by the better educated portion of the community, whose wishes are made known by the more refined modes of expression, such as a glance, a pressure of the hand, or a plot laid by the careful duenna, yet this is not the case with the miserable Indian and the mass generally, whose every action becomes shamefully brutalized. Nay, even the brutes themselves would not be guilty of what may be daily witnessed here. The most filthy nuisances are committed in the very middle of the public streets, and in the face of open day, without a single feeling of shame! Shame seems not to have a place wherein to hide her head in all Bogotá. Foreigners and all become polluted if they remain here long. What is at first looked upon as revolting to every feeling of our nature, afterward becomes a matter of indifference, until, gradually, the individuals themselves sink into the same state of degradation. As an instance of this, I mention the following circumstance: an English lady, married to an English gentleman, with a fine family around her, when reproached by a native woman for the impropriety of her visiting alone the lodgings of a young Englishman, who acknowledged and kept in his own house an illegitimate child by one of the most common women in the city, replied, "Such is the custom in England." And this woman was a daughter of a clergyman of the Church of England!

Three or four foreigners only are married to native women, and their lot is far from being an enviable one. The Dutch consul is an honourable exception; being himself a gentleman of the most

open and pleasing manners, while his lady is wholly devoted to him and to the interests of a young and lovely family. Many others live with the degraded wretches of the country, and these on all occasions apparently study to excel the Bogotános themselves in actual wickedness.

Sunday is observed here as in all other Catholic countries. When mass is over, each one moves to his own particular business or pleasures. Gaming, shooting, and riding excursions; the theatre, and balls in the evening, finish the services of that day set apart by the Almighty for his own special service.

Catholicism in Great Britain and the United States, where it is hedged in by the strong wall of public opinion, and where the slightest deviation from the great moral tract of the Gospel is strictly watched and exposed, is not the same as in countries where the constitutional forms, and the opinions and will of the people are in its favour. The antipodes are not more opposite than these: and nations where the divine right of conscience is uniformly acknowledged can never bear the remotest similitude to one where the dark and malign influences prevail as in this, where its most holy things are polluted, and where vice and the worst sectarian dogmas go hand in hand.

Gambling is on the decline at present; but more on account of the very low state of funds than from any principle of morality. The public squares are, however, no longer rented out by the government for gambling purposes, but low gaming-tables are numerously distributed around during the feast-days. Dice is most prevalent, and a game called loteria, in which the ladies greatly indulge. It was rather a ludicrous matter to witness Governor Mantilla publicly proscribing gambling either in private or in public, when the old soldier is ever

on the *qui vive* himself for any little snug thing of the sort; as is also the jefe politico (chief of the police).

Thievings.—This subject deserves a separate heading, for almost all the people here are born thieves, if I may so express myself; for they commence the very moment they can use their locomotives. This is the very curse of house or shop keeping in Bogotá. No matter how kind and liberal you may be in your conduct towards your domestics, they will pilfer; frequently taking, too, things quite insignificant in themselves, though actually of much importance to you. For instance, they will steal the lid of a coffee-pot, a carving-knife without the fork, a door-key, a cream-pot from a full set, a soup-ladle, charcoal, wood, fragments of meat, or anything they can possibly lay their hands on; which will all disappear beneath the mantilla and ruana like magic. This barbarous dress of the ruana and mantilla seems to have been adapted peculiarly for their nefarious purposes. A shopkeeper in the Calle Real must certainly be very much on the alert against these suspicious articles of dress. Scarcely a class is free from this thieving propensity whenever a strong temptation or one of easy execution presents itself.

I had, upon my first arrival in Bogotá, made an agreement with two natives that they should lay down the esteras or home-manufactured straw-mats at about half what they at first asked me. Upon paying the money into the hands of him who seemed to be chief in the matter, he pronounced the amount correct, after the reals were by myself twice told over in the presence of two witnesses, when I turned away into another room. In a short time the rascal came running after me, vociferating that there were two reals wanting, and that, consequently, he would lose the one and his

companion the other. The fellow looked guilty, and I comprehended at a glance that his purpose was to cheat his miserable partner out of the paltry real. I seized him at once by the neck, and forced him to confess that the two reals in question were in the toe of his sandals, whence he drew them forth *instanter*.

No one can possibly conceive the extreme vexation caused by such a state of things, especially as it prevails universally among the peones. I never before knew a people in whom kind treatment and liberal wages did not in some way form an attachment to the interests and welfare of their employers, save these! My worthy landlord, the Señor Antonio Manriquez, upon visiting me shortly after being settled in the house, actually held up his hands in utter amazement when he saw the keys of some of the doors left in their places. "But," said I, "señor, all are not surely the same? I treat them well and pay good wages." The señor's short and comprehensive reply I have had too strong reasons for crediting ever since. "Señor," said he, "esa gente son los mayores picarones del mundo, y sin remedia" (these people are the greatest rascals in the whole world, and there is no help for it).

Both men and women are inveterate smokers, the extreme cheapness of segars placing them within the reach of the poorest; forty to sixty can be had for a single real. When visiting, you scarcely get seated before segars are handed round. The unmarried ladies sometimes thrust into their mouths the ignited end, as it is said that by this mode the breath does not become so impregnated with the fumes of the tobacco.

On the 22d of October, '36, we had a slight specimen of one of their bochincha's, a revolution or tumult, formerly popular here, and still so in other

parts of South America. It had its origin thus: At the expulsion of those fathers of mischief, the Jesuits, from the country, all their property was at the time confiscated to the government. But as much of their wealth was known to consist in vessels and images of gold and silver, some of them set with precious stones of great value, many of which were not forthcoming, a strict look-out was kept. It was surmised that they were buried about the convents, or left in trust with other orders of monks who were still tolerated in the country, and who would, doubtless, make no scruples of receiving in charge what might never be reclaimed; especially as even the most liberal among them consider it sacrilegious in the government to seize upon any article after it has been set apart for sacred purposes. This scrutiny has been ever since observed as well by individuals as by government; for the one half goes to him who can give such information as may lead directly to the discovery and possession of any such treasure. Well, such information had been given by an elderly foreigner, residing for some time in Bogotá; a scheming sort of fellow, who called himself a Frenchman, but was believed by some to have been formerly a Portuguese friar. At any rate, he spoke very fluently the French language as well as the Spanish, knew something of the English, and had a most gentlemanly exterior. His information concerned a thing of no less importance than the *custodia*, in which the Host is kept, of the church attached to the Nunnery and Seminary for Female Education, situated in the same street with the Mint, and near the Plaza Mayor. This article was of the purest gold, and completely studded with emeralds, amethysts, rubies, topazes, and a few diamonds. The materials were all the produce of the country, and were sent to Italy for manufacture, and cost

the order, it is said, in all, about sixty thousand dollars. If such was the case, the workmanship must have cost a heavy sum; for, having inspected it closely at the treasury office, where it now stands, in company with a friend who was a jeweller, the intrinsic value we concluded could not possibly exceed the sum of eighteen or twenty thousand dollars. The workmanship is admirable, as is also the design: an angel robed and standing upon a square pedestal of massy gold, and bearing up, with both hands over her head, the crystal, surrounded by an openly wrought glory, which contains the Host; the rays being completely formed of precious stones. The superstitious believe that, by looking through this little round piece of glass, every event of the future may be discerned.

The Governor of Bogotá, whose duty it was to see to the matter, deeming the Frenchman's information of sufficient consequence for immediate action, despatched the treasurer of state to seize upon and retain the custodia until such time as the church might be enabled to disprove the accusations brought against it, and show cause why the government should not hold the same as a part of the said confiscated property, as certain long-hidden documents, now brought to light, went to show that such was the case. But, long before the treasurer had started on his mission, every approach to the church was blocked up by thousands of men, women, and children of the lowest order of the populace, who, armed with knives, and paving-stones hastily torn up from the street, threatened death to the sacrilegious hand that would dare to approach the holy thing. The treasurer then applied for a guard of soldiers, who were also, for the time, withstood; and thus closed the first day. The government, meanwhile, consulted how far they should carry out the measure, while the servants of the priesthood were louder than ever

in their threats and denunciations against the government, mixed up with cries of "Muera á los estrangeros" (Death to the foreigners)! This rabble-like outcry for the indiscriminate murder of foreigners was because the informer himself happened to belong to this class. I was engaged in conversation with two friends near the Cathedral steps, in the Plaza Mayor, a little after sunset, when the above fearful cry first struck my ears; and I cannot describe the cold thrill of horror which shot through my heart at the moment. It was not precisely the fear of death, as pertaining alone to the parting of soul and body, but it was the cause and manner of it which was so appalling. I knew our number was barely twoscore, women and all included; that we were shut out from all communication with our gallant countrymen, and that there was no friendly ship to receive us on board, as on the seacoast! No earthly hope of relief, no prospect save to die by the hands of a vile, bloodthirsty mob of blind bigots, whose whole possé would not probably be a match for one hundred brave souls, with sufficient arms and a fair field for action. We were scattered, also, over the whole city, and, had the carnage immediately followed the cry, could have concentrated in no place of security until such time as the government troops could have driven back the rabble throng. That such a catastrophe was not our lot was from no good-will the priesthood bore us; but we owed our safety to the very prompt measures used by government to restore and keep the peace. They were not unprepared for such a state of things; but, in expectation thereof, had been quietly concentrating their forces before a single move in regard to the custodia affair had been made. It was a most wise policy in President Santander to suffer the priests and their servitors to become fully entangled in their own meshes before driving them

back, so as to afford an ample test of what might hereafter be hoped for by the friends of social order and reverencers of the laws. All that night the mob kept guard by the church, where heaps of stones were piled up by the women to serve as ammunition. At the same time strong pickets of troops were stationed over the city, the cavalry also remaining under arms. Yet no attempt was made to disperse the mob, while they, seeing such strong evidences of vigilance and preparation on the part of government, contented themselves with acting solely on the defensive; and thus passed another day.

As for myself, seeing how matters stood, I departed quietly to my own residence, the doors of which were doubly barricaded, and we attended duly to our arms, being convinced that we might thus hold out, for one night at least, in a house like a castle, where, by means of various windows and loopholes, fearful odds were in our favour, aided, as we would have been, by excellent guns and keen visions, carefully selecting our game, and ridding ourselves of the most noisy first. All the other foreigners did the same, confining themselves to their houses, and giving not the slightest offence, even by looks. The greatest confidence was placed by us all in the well-known abilities of General Santander to bring everything to a right issue. Major Holding, an American who had been here during the earthquake, when Santander was vice-president under Bolivar, told me that then, as now, the cry was raised of "Death to the Judios," Jews; the universal name given to Protestants by this stupid people. It was started by a priest, who, rushing upon the steps of the Cathedral, raised the cross above his head, and denounced the heretics then in the city as the cause of the Almighty's displeasure in his afflicting them with the earthquake. The vice-president most

promptly sent a supply of arms and ammunition to a strong house in the Plaza Mayor, into which the foreigners had mostly precipitately thrown themselves upon the very first sound of the appalling cry, and where they remained until order was restored. What a comment! A government actually warring against their own people, and the principles upon which they themselves profess to found their authority! principles which hold as strongly now as ever; viz., the extermination of all heretics, by any means, and whenever it can be done with safety to themselves!

About nine o'clock of the second day I was returning from breakfast to the city, in company with two of my people, a Polish officer and young Mr. Taylor, when it actually became necessary for us to pass a detached portion of the mob. We set about this as quickly and quietly as possible, neither looking to the right hand nor to the left; but, when directly opposite to them, they raised a cry of "Here come three Jews; let us kill them!" We did not heed this, as it was spoken in rather a bragadocia sort of manner, and proceeded on without noticing it. Just, however, as our backs were fairly towards them, Mr. Dubieski, the Pole, who was rather in the rear, felt himself struck by a stone on the hip, but not severely, as it had evidently been thrown from some distance. He thereupon instantly and fiercely faced the throng, and, advancing a few paces, with no other weapon in his possession than a small umbrella, boldly demanded who it was that had thrown the missile. But, as no one replied, he continued, "I will kill the very first whom, by sign or token, I have reason to believe is a party in the aggression!" Every head was cast down; and although I really trembled for what might be the consequences of the brave Pole's rashness, it was amusing to witness the chop-fallen, gallows-like expres-

sion which appeared in every face there. We received no farther molestation.

When the mob were at the very top of their fury, the archbishop attempted to pacify them; while they thronged before his house, which was nigh to this church, in the same street, and called upon him to anathematize the government and protect their holy religion, which, they contended, was about to be most horribly polluted, the archbishop told them "that what they required of him was not his to grant; that the governor acted in accordance with the laws which they themselves had framed; that for them to disperse, and return quietly to their homes and business, was the best they could do, and leave this matter to him, who, most certainly, would see that the custodia was properly disposed of, being not only in itself a most holy thing, but of very great value to the church to which it belonged. But should it, upon proper trial, be found to be confiscated property, it would then be perfectly clear that it belonged to the state, and all further interference on his part must end."

But this harangue only tended to exasperate them the more; and they even went so far as to throw out threats, coupled with oaths, in the very teeth of one before whom, in calmer moments, they humbly prostrate themselves in the street as he passes; nay, kiss the very prints of his footsteps! They next thundered along to the palace, where Santander harangued them from the balcony, using expressions similar to those of the archbishop; telling them to go to their governor, "as it was a provincial affair, and not belonging to the chief executive." So they cursed him also, and, flourishing their knives, swore they would "*drink his blood* as soon as he left that house," meaning when his term of office should expire.

It was generally thought that the archbishop and one or two of the better informed clergy went hand

in hand with the government; but the mass of the priests and friars kept entirely aloof to all appearance, although it never will be known what were their secret movements, nor how it came that the people were thus stirred up to insult so grossly their excellent bishop, contemning all law and order in the land. Probably these questions have been solved long ago by the government; and a most fearful trust is theirs to war against such a dark and powerful counter-current as the whisperings of the tomb-like confessional.

It was not until the third day, when the government were fully prepared, and the numbers of the mob had actually dwindled down to less than one half, and they were pleasing themselves with the secret but high hope that they had fairly intimidated the government, that the cavalry might be seen scouring the streets of all suspicious-looking persons, and pricking others along with their lances to the prison-house. And, notwithstanding that a considerable number of loungers still stood about the door of the church, the treasurer alone, and without a single soldier to guard him, entered the place, and leisurely removed the disputed property, without having a single insult offered to him. Thus terminated the Bochincha of the Custodia.

Religious Processions.—During the great feasts and holydays of the church, these are still kept up in Bogotá with all the pomp and display possible. In gazing out upon such an array of buffoonery, for it merits no other name, it is difficult to realize that the divine and glorious light of reason, since she found her purest, brightest helpmate, Christianity, has already entered the nineteenth century of her blessed reign upon earth. But what else can we expect from a hierarchy which, until within a very few years past, prohibited the females of this country from receiving the very rudiments of education

save within the walls of a nunnery, from which place but few ever rejoined their fellows, and, when they did so, came forth to the great world with understandings as warped and darkened as Jesuitical ingenuity could possibly accomplish.

Semana Santa, or Holy Week, is a time here of the greatest importance in the church. Business is suspended, and the whole mass of the population, arrayed in their very best costume, prepare to participate in the festivities. The Calle Real, and other streets through which the processions pass, are decorated with triumphal arches, with festoons of particoloured cottons and silks, flowers and ribands; as are also the balconies and doorways of the shops and dwelling-houses. The one thousand bells are simultaneously made to send forth their discordant peals at double quick time, while rockets blaze, ordnance lends its thunder, and all to usher in a set of tawdry-dressed puppets, the handicraft of which would have disgraced the "Punch and Judy" times of "Old King Cole." What such *shows* may be in Rome, I know not; perhaps the sublime art of the sculptor and painter may modify their effects, and reconcile the mind to receive other impressions, and common sense be led captive through so fascinating a medium; but in Bogotá there is no such danger, as I can testify.

The different stages are termed "pasos," and vary during the different days of the week till the last, when all pass in procession together. They are intended to represent the birth, life, and passion of our Saviour, agreeably to the Roman Catholic version. Each church or convent furnishes one or more of the images, which are made of wax or wood, in the most clumsy manner imaginable. They are nearly as large as life, decked out to represent their particular characters, placed upon carpeted wooden platforms, and are thus borne along on the shoulders of

men, who carry also stout staffs with iron crotches on which to rest the machine; this is done in case of a pause in the procession, and to rest the bearers themselves, as some of the images are of enormous weight, requiring eight men to support them, who fairly totter beneath their burden.

The dress of these men consists of a loose black gown, enveloping the whole figure from head to foot, with two round holes to peer through, a belt fastening it around the waist. This is the same style of dress precisely as was used by the familiars of the Inquisition. Often one may observe a well-polished shoe and fine silk stocking appearing from beneath this black covering. The men thus employed are penitents, who receive such work as penance for some misdeeds. Peones and all are put upon this duty, the priests taking care so to order it as to have a goodly number of these penitents ready on such occasions, although the wealthy generally choose to buy themselves off, while some of the more superstitious hope by their performance of the work to merit a greater share of both heavenly and priestly favour. Altar-boys, and those who swing the censers containing the incense, wear high-peaked hats and girdles of sackcloth. All the various banners and symbols of the different churches are borne along on this occasion, and there is nothing neglected that could possibly add to the superstitious wonder and adoration of the gaping, illiterate multitude.

Music, the only good thing they might muster on the occasion, is almost entirely neglected. Instead of calling in the aid of one of the fine military bands to drown the nasal twanging of the choir, the whole of their instrumental music consists of a couple of screeching violins, a flute or two, and a violoncello. Flowers are showered down upon the images and processions from the balconies of the houses by the ladies, who crowd thither to witness the "pasos."

On Monday, the affair commenced with two of these "pasos," which were from the church of the Franciscans, who gave personal attendance. One represented Christ upon the Cross, with the Holy Mother and Mary Magdalen beside it. The other was the Virgin, attired in a very rich suit of mourning, a single figure. At the conclusion of the ceremony, these images were not returned on the same day to their own church, but left all night in that of Santo Domingo, where they are devoutly supposed to hold communion with the images of that church! This is no idle report, but a plain and solemn fact!! On the next day, these two orders of carved saints are marched out together, and apparently on the most amicable terms possible.

Thursday and Friday are the two greatest days in the week; for then all the "pasos" are out, and among them I saw the following: 1st. Christ on the Cross, a very fair design; 2d. Christ with the two thieves; 3d. Christ on the Cross, the Virgin, and Mary Magdalen in scarlet velvet, highly tinselled and jewelled. But why they have chosen to give light-coloured hair to the Holy Mother, they best know. 4th. Christ scourged by two most excessively grim-looking Roman soldiers, into whose ample mouths are stuck *two segars*. What an idea! Segars in the year one! In accordance with this most sage development of the fact that the scourgers of Christ smoked segars during their infliction of those rude stripes, to testify their total want of feeling and seeming indifference to the crime they were perpetrating, no one smokes segars in the streets while the processions are passing.

Several of us foreigners were in a balcony together at the time the "pasos" went by, when immediately we all threw away our segars except Major Holding, who retained his, although we urged him to the contrary. But I believe the bulk of the

people were too intent on the procession to notice it, and only two or three cried out, "Miran al Judio" ("look at the Jew"). 5th. Christ before the doctors, six in number; 6th. Christ after having been scourged, St. Peter kneeling before him, with a huge key stuck in his girdle; all very well excepting the key. 7th. The betrayal; Judas in the act of kissing, and Peter smiting off the servant's ear, and two soldiers; 8th. Christ bearing the Cross, the Virgin behind, bearing the crown of thorns; 9th. Christ in the judgment hall, crowned, with the reed in his hand, and buffeted by two soldiers; very good. 10th. Christ bearing his Cross, Simon the tanner, and a Roman trumpeter, who also holds the rope which binds the hands of Jesus; 11th. Christ extended on the ground, in the act of being nailed to the Cross, the two executioners mocking his sufferings, and the Virgin and Mary Magdalen; tolerably well designed. 12th. A massive wooden cross, borne on alone, having its foot fixed in a mound of flowers and evergreens, with a white napkin suspended over the crossbar; the only appropriate and touching "paso" of the whole, and the one best calculated to recall to the mind that sad, yet blessed event. Yet, coupled as this sight was with a score of others, whose sole tendency is to excite pity and contempt for such grave mummeries, its good effects were almost completely lost. 13th. A second cross of similar design, but much smaller, and painted black; 14th. The Virgin alone, under a canopy of black velvet, her dress of the same material; very good, had it not been for the intrusion of a misshapen-faced cherubim, which, midway up, supported her train. 15th. The bloody sweat of Gethsemane, the two disciples asleep. Here, too, the thing in itself was pretty fair; but who could resist the strong inclination to indulge the risible faculties on witnessing, at the same time, as a representation of one of the

heavenly host ministering to the Saviour's wants, a figure, about the size of a large wax doll, with a chalice in its hand, perched upon one foot on the top of a little boxwood bush, meant to represent a large tree! 16th. Christ before Pilate's judgment seat, an attendant with a basin and ewer, and two other figures; tolerable. 17th. Christ scourged, second copy; 18th. Descent from the Cross, five figures; 19th. The Host, borne by five canons of the Cathedral, a representation of a temple, two feet high at least, in massive silver. 20th. Santa (I forget her name) holding up the bloody white handkerchief with which the Saviour had wiped his face, with three impressions of it in blood!

These "pasos" have been classed, not according to historical order, but as they passed in succession before me. There may be several others, but these mentioned are all of any note, with the exception of the 21st and last, which is not brought out from the Cathedral until Friday. It is the sepulchre, with Christ laid within, and Joseph of Arimathea standing by, while two others occupy a place in a stooping position at the head and foot of the tomb. This is shaped something like an ordinary bathing-tub, having heavy silver bars running up and down the sides, and is cased with the finest tortoise-shell. I was extremely sorry I could not get a nearer view of it, but am satisfied it is of admirable workmanship and of great value.

On the supposed day of the crucifixion, every one who can do so dresses in white and wears the gayest colours. The gentlemen put on white vests and white pantaloons; and this custom is supposed to have reference to the multitude who rejoiced at his death. The military are all out, and head the processions with reversed arms and muffled drums, while a company of them are dressed for the occasion in the uniform of Roman lictors. On Friday a

different scene is presented, all appearing in deep mourning. Not a bell gives forth its customary sounds; the clocks do not even strike the hours. In the afternoon the military parade the city, passing from church to church, as if searching for the body of which they had charge in the sepulchre. At night the churches are all decked out and illuminated in the most splendid manner, and there the search for the body is still continued. On Saturday morning, at ten o'clock, I attended at the Cathedral to witness the "rending in twain of the veil of the temple," said to be well represented; but a more bungling piece of theatrical pageantry could not be perpetrated. A drop curtain of the most ragged, dirty silk was suspended the whole depth of the church, running in front of the great altar, which it entirely concealed; the rent in the centre, where the great bubble was to burst, being quite apparent. After a very prolonged service, the archbishop himself officiating, sundry movements gave notice of the near approach of this great catastrophe, when, whew! the bells, crackers, and rockets all exploded some moments too soon; and the tawdry silk curtain was jerked aside by the altar-boys as close upon the heels of this din as possible. Truly a most wretched affair. Now the bells made up for this day or two's silence; and one might descry, far and near, up in the various pigeon-hole-like places, the bell-ringers tugging away as if their life depended on their hard pulling. Next to a bochincha, bell-ringing is certainly a Bogotano's forte.

After this service came the blessing of the baptismal font, which is placed near the great front door of the Cathedral. Such a rush then took place as I will not soon forget; each individual endeavouring to obtain a small portion of the water in cups or tumblers, as they believe it to be very efficacious in the cure of diseases, in keeping away

evil spirits, for consecrating themselves, and a host of other things. I believe they can baptize with it, also, in the absence of a priest.

June 3d. "*Corpus Christi*" is rather the gayest of all their festivals here. The streets and houses are much more tastefully decorated than during the "Semana Santa." In fact, this is the period for nothing more nor less than the turning of the churches inside out, if I may use such an expression; for their finest paintings are all hung up along the streets, where each church erects covered altars, in which they deposite their patron saint, and various devices emblematical of their particular order. Private individuals also bring out their paintings on this occasion. As the processions move along, a service is performed in front of each of these altars. A troop of maskers precede all. Why and wherefore they are thus attached to this religious ceremony, I could not learn from any of my Bogotá friends. The first of these were dressed to represent native Indians at the time of the conquest by the Spaniards, while they played on an ancient warfife and drum of the country, and whacked away at each other with short clubs in a game like "single-stick." Little children were also dressed up to take a part in the spectacle, and leaped and chanted, as they followed the car of the Virgin, admirably well. I observed some most interesting faces among them. These latter "pasos" were well worth seeing, inasmuch as the images were all flesh and blood, and consisted, too, of the most beautiful children in the city or neighbourhood. The two little girls who enacted Judith and her maid (having the head of Holofernes) were truly like beings of another world! So fair their faces! so elegant their attire!

A description of one or two of these altars may give some farther insight into the customs and man-

procession was the sight of two little girls, about the ages of seven and eight, who bore along the "Ark of the Covenant." Such beautiful and artless faces suited well the station. The out-door altars, which were on this day erected around this church, were truly bungling affairs; some of them contained daubs by native artists of Paul's journey to Damascus, &c. Beautiful young girls, most richly and appropriately robed, represented the pope, King David, Pharaoh's daughter, and the Virgin, &c.

All Saints' Day, too, creates a great stir among these people, masses of whom pour along towards the two churchyards on the skirts of the town. The first and best laid out of which, and where the richer sort bury, is close to the Protestant one, and is strongly walled in. The other lies out by the San Victorina, enclosed by a low mud wall, and presenting an appearance the very opposite to that of a "Père la Chaise." I know it matters but little what place the body occupies after the spirit that animated it has taken its flight; but if surviving Christian friends think it going too far to deck the tomb in all the "pomp and pride of sculptured urn or animated bust;" in places where pleasant avenues and delicious odours form a haunt of fairy mould tempt the mourner to linger out a portion of each day by the spot which contains the sad remains of the dear departed one, surely, on the other hand, an absence of all order, and decency, and attention to the proper disposal of the remains of the nearest of friends, while it argues a want of refinement of character, goes not a little way to reclothe the grave with many of those feelings of horror and disgust which Christianity, through her exalting, purifying, and ennobling influences, as well externally as otherwise, had banished from the heart of man by beautifully hallowing this, the body's last resting-place.

It was to the last mentioned of these two church-

yards, then, that some friends conducted me. The relatives of those who lie in the richer ground have masses said at the churches for the repose of their souls; but with those in this one it is different. True, a great general mass, which is paid for by public contributions, is said this day in the Cathedral, but this is not considered so beneficial to the sufferer in purgatory as if said for him in particular, even though it be but a single prayer muttered above the grave by a simple friar. We entered the churchyard from a field adjoining the Camino Real, passing through a low gateway crowded by people, who, with uncovered heads, were listening attentively to a priest of San Diego as he chanted forth some Latin passages. We passed on and stood within the walls, for you can say no more of a plain field where not a single headstone was visible, and scarcely the little wooden cross which pious Catholics in every other country still find means to plant at the head of the departed. I looked for the green grass mound which at least should have marked the burial-places, but not one was to be seen.

The only thing which showed it to be a "place of graves" was the loosened earth and stones which told each spot where lay the mouldering remains; while quantities of human bones and sculls were scattered about, and we saw an ugly cur licking and snuffing at one of these last!

The graves of such as had been dead only a few months were easily recognised by friends, but not so those of older dates, as we observed more than once considerable indecision evinced by parties in pointing out the particular spot, while the friar's impatience to have them come to a conclusion, that he might finish his short prayer and be in readiness for a new set of customers, was ridiculous enough. The price paid by these poor people for each mass could not have been much; but I believe that, until

some fixed sum had been deposited, the mass could not proceed, as we overheard a man and two females earnestly imploring some acquaintance or friend in the crowd of lookers on to give them three cuartillos (nine cents) to make up what was still lacking of the ghostly shriver's demand. The crowd was immense, while the thoroughfare to it was thronged for nearly the whole day.

As we regained the field beyond the walls we saw two friars dividing a small lot of silver, and chuckling away as they indulged in some seemingly amusing colloquy.

Bullfights generally take place at the "fiestas;" and on no one occasion had my expectations been more on tiptoe than to witness this great national divertisement; but I found that all of that ancient spirit which had once animated these scenes was now completely dead; which change was owing partly to the restrictions imposed on the manner of the lists by government, and as much, perhaps, to the cowardice of the population—these half-breeds being but wretched substitutes for the chivalric hidalgo race of the pure Spanish blood. However, what is lacking in one point is amply made up to the lover of fun in another; for a more ludicrous scene than that which a bullfight presents in the capital of New-Grenada now cannot well be imagined. To render the description still more so, it will be necessary for the reader to bear closely in mind that all is done in sober earnest, and that it is attended with the same expense, preliminaries, and show of courage as when it took place a full century ago before the Spanish viceroy and his court.

In the square of the San Victorina, for three days previous to this memorable occasion, a number of carpenters, both natives and foreigners, had been employed in putting up and throwing into shape about twoscore clumsy tents or booths,

many of which were fitted up with a second floor, and forms for the accommodation of spectators. A strong circular paling, into which the bulls were admitted, and which surrounded the enclosure, ran along the borders of these. A guard of soldiers was stationed to preserve order, and perhaps life, if, perchance, the ferocious animals should prove too desperate for the brave picadores. Lots of small gaming-tables were disposed all around, and segars, aguardiente, dulces, and pretty women as abundant as strawberries in June. A friend gave me a seat in one of the booths, where one could await very comfortably the "fast-coming events." A most incongruous multitude of horsemen were now in possession of the enclosure, dressed after every fashion, from the peon with the ruana of four reals up to the cachaco, or imitator of foreign equipment. They of the ruanas had generally the lasso at the saddle-bow, although there were a goodly number without that or any saddle at all. A bridle of twisted hide was all they used, with the stout application of their black, naked feet to the animal's sides. Thus, with their conical-shaped straw hats drawn closely over their eyes to secure them from falling, they scoured up and down, in company with "los otros caballeros" (the other gentlemen). Now all eyes are strained towards the point where the enraged animal is expected to enter. The *caballeros* are huddled together as if in earnest consultation; and occasionally they of the stirrup raise themselves therein, and gaze *fearlessly* out beyond the thickly-set hedge formed by the heads of the pedestrians, while ever and anon comes galloping in some doughty courier from the place of bulls, and a fresh agitation among the heads and a rising up in stirrups takes place again, while those of the bare backs follow suit as they best can. Fair eyes light up with re-

doubled brilliancy, and the next moment the loud shout of "torro, torro" (bull, bull) ascended in hearty earnest from at least ten thousand throats! But no "torro" made its appearance, and the alarm thus given proved false, as it did subsequently in two or three other instances. After waiting at least an hour and a half, a veritable "torro" was actually espied cautiously advancing towards the lists, stoutly secured by two strong lassos. At this time the number of caballeros in the ring had suddenly dwindled down to about ten or twelve, with three or four pedestrians.

As yet, all the notions I had gathered from books relative to this sport were completely at variance with everything I now saw. Nor could I in any way make out why so many people remained within the enclosure. Well! there the poor "torro" perambulated up and down the arena, without looking either to the right or left, his whole appearance betokening the most abject servility; and it is even yet a puzzle to me to conjecture where so tame an animal of the kind could have been procured, as I never saw one like him on these plains unless he had been accustomed to the harness.

Two or three *caballeros* now attempted to vex him, but it was "no go;" "he wouldn't be vexed no how," for a long time. Fire-crackers, however, did the business, and cracked him off at last; and away he bounded in most gallant style, head down and heels up. It was now a *glorious* spectacle to see the scampering of another sort among the *caballeros* and footmen in the ring. The latter, in an instant, were on the safe side of the enclosure, while the horsemen huddled hastily together in the centre of the place, and called lustily to those on the outside to draw off the bull's attention from them by the display of a red ruana. This had the effect of keeping the animal in play until a fresh impetus

was given him; and then was repeated the same sort of mock heroism, the military band playing, and the crowd cheering all the while.

When one animal becomes so tired out as not to be squibbed into action any longer, a fresh one of the same sort is admitted; the whole matter appearing like a game at hide and seek, and a mode of ascertaining who could run the fastest and keep himself the most secure. Occasionally the monotony of the scene was partially relieved by the bull's making a sudden rush at one of his cowardly tormentors. Then the fright of the poor wretch, added to his vehement cries for help, were ludicrous enough, although it might have been apparent to any one that, by simply wheeling his horse upon the tame beast, the animal would have been much more alarmed than the chivalrous picadore himself.

A handkerchief at this moment was accidentally dropped into the arena by a lady from one of the booths; and an Indian servant, who had clambered down by one of the posts to restore it to her, had already secured the article, and was just in possession of a footing on one of the cross-rails of the booth in order to reascend, when "señor torro" espied him, and was instantly upon him. The crowd cried out, some to ascend, others to stay where he was; but little time was given to think of either; for, in less than a moment, whack! came the bull's horns, aimed directly behind him, and actually indenting the railing on each side of the Indian's leg. The animal being now called off, the poor fellow lost no time in effecting his escape. I must observe that the wise precaution *of cutting off the tips of the bull's horns is always taken before commencing the game.*

Sometimes the "*fight*" assumes another feature. A broad band is tightly strapped around the body of

the bull close to his fore-shoulder, and then he is held fast until mounted by some daring fellow, who holds on stoutly by this band. I saw a negro perform the feat while at the "fiesta" at Fusugasuga on my route to Pandi, and there was more sport in this than in all the laboured fuss exhibited in the capital. The strange, unequal motions of the animal, which tried, by every means in its power, to throw its tormentor, as the latter tossed and tumbled about on his back like a ship in a high sea, was fun enough. The bull succeeded in throwing him twice; but, somehow, with the help of a ruana or two, the negro escaped unhurt, and in a moment was up and remounted.

Thus, without spear, rapier, or poniard, do they in New-Grenada still manage to keep up this sport, before as great crowds, and, apparently, with as much hilarity as when, in other days, the cries of "viva, viva" rent the air upon each successive death of—no matter which—either "torro" or "caballero."

These people are also passionately fond of fireworks, and the government gives two exhibitions of the kind annually; one in the Plaza Mayor, the other in the San Victorina. I was informed that this custom has now become so firmly established, and the people so enthusiastic in regard to such representations, that to suppress them might excite a revolution!

This government has succeeded admirably in cutting down the number of religious feasts and holydays. From being about fifty or sixty there are not now more than one fourth the number. In consequence of so wise a measure, no doubt the most beneficial results must soon become apparent in the more wholesome condition of the labouring classes, and in the improvement of business generally, although much clamouring is yet heard, very frequently from labourers, seeking leave of absence in order

to keep up old customs. The power of setting these follies aside was obtained from his holiness at Rome, whom for this act I heard stigmatized as being "but half a Christian."

When all the old holydays were in full vogue, it was almost impossible to do any kind of business here, and a poor person could never save one penny of his earnings. As various manufactures were started in the country, it was found utterly impossible to conduct them to advantage. Take, for instance, a pottery; when, after some processes of the manufacture have reached a certain state, the breaking off of one single day would totally destroy operations that cost some hundreds of dollars. On such occasions a person could not travel, receive attendance from servants, nor, in fact, do anything but gape out upon a whole population engaged in unmeaning mummeries, gaming, and idleness of every kind. Mexico and other parts of South America are actually groaning under an evil from which, of all others combined, springs the most fruitful cause of demoralization and effeminacy. Cock-fighting is at present at a dead stand in Bogotá. Not a single thing of the sort took place during my residence there.

The English residents, when more numerous than at this time, had gone some lengths in introducing horse-races; but no such thing is practised there at present.

CHAPTER VI.

Vicinity of Bogotá.—Ascent to Montserrate and Guadaloupe.—Falls of Tiquendama.—Indian Mode of Fowling.—Fusagasuga.—Bridge of Pandi.—Fashionable Country Resorts of the Bogotanos.—Trip to Guaduas.—Attack on the Family of Palmas, and Description of the Estate.—Arrival of Col. Biddle.—Proceedings regarding the Panama Question.—Santander.

ALTHOUGH divested of highly cultivated fields and gardens, of wooded avenues, and those tall, towering forest-trees which add such grace to the majesty of mountain scenery, yet, to the true lover of nature, there is much to admire in the walks and views in the immediate vicinity of the city. The finest of these may be considered the "Bocarron" (big-mouth) or great pass, through which the clear waters of the little "San Augustine" come bounding down into the city, formed by the giant heads of the two guardian hills of Bogotá, the Guadaloupe and Montserrate.

These mountains, as I have before mentioned, lie directly in rear of Bogotá; the summit of Guadaloupe being 1790 feet above the plain, rising up in an almost perpendicular direction. In order to gain the pass, you go by Bolivar's Quinta, which, independent of its vicinity to the Bocarron, the associations it awakens, as linked with the memory of one of the greatest of modern commanders, will ever recommend it to stranger as well as citizen. It is a small, but neat cottage-built house, with piazzas extending all around. The rooms are in the same wretched bad taste as in the city, and I have seen an English cotter's garden laid out in much better order than the one attached to this es-

tablishment, and, at the same time, of quite as large dimensions. The little beauty the grounds may once have possessed is fast fading away, for want of proper care. The place now belongs to the Señor Paris, of the Emerald Mines, and is said to have been presented to him by the liberator himself. Leaving the city, a smooth, pretty road of gradual ascent leads you, at the termination of fifteen minutes' walk, to the very gorge of the ravine itself. This affords a very great Sunday haunt for bathers and idlers of all sorts. One can be alone there at scarcely no hour of the day during the summer season. The narrowest part of the ravine is about eighty feet; while the steep, rocky sides of the two mountains, which appear to have been once united, rise perpendicularly up, and drip with water from the numerous springs with which they are filled. Moss, a few stunted shrubs, and a long dry grass is all the vegetation visible. The river itself is peculiarly beautiful, winding along through deep green banks of mossy softness, and lined with numerous flowering shrubs, which furnish food for quantities of the most beautiful humming-birds, whose airy gambols I have watched for hours together as I sat musing in some chosen spot in the neighbourhood. A narrow mule-path, leading to the country beyond this Bogotá range of hills, follows the stream, and, for two miles or more, presents the most perfectly romantic and picturesque view imaginable.

Accompanied by two friends (all duly prepared with only scrip and staff, being the most suitable mode for making a pilgrimage to the Hermitage of the Montserrate), I set out early on the morning of as sweet a day as ever gladdened the heart of a traveller. No wild extremes of heat and cold, sun and cloud, wind and calm, break in upon the paradisiacal uniformity of climate of a Bogotá June. The ascent is, on the side of the city, very easy at first, wind-

ing over a barren soil, plentifully interspersed with naked granite of a light gray cast. Midway up, the task of ascending has but barely commenced; and frequent stops must be made by the very stoutest in order "to blow a bit," which stops can be most profitably employed in gazing down and around upon the country at your feet, the appearance of which grows more and more picturesque the higher you ascend.

In the sides of the mountain are built little cells, where anchorites or penitents dwelt, and pilgrims frequently rested the night. One rocky seat is all the furniture each of these contains. Innumerable little wooden crosses fill the entrances, some of which seem to have been but recently put up, in order to commemorate the ascent of the pious or curious like ourselves. Higher up still, the mountain becomes more fertile. Here are to be seen tall shrubs and the most beautifully-coloured mosses, watered by eternal springs, which press soft beneath the feet.

At this point the path, after emerging from a small ravine, evidently the bed of the torrent in the rainy season, brought us suddenly upon such a part as here described. It wound in the most circuitous manner up the mountain, and was no wider than the narrow bed in some hanging garden. Here we found a fine spring, at which we seated ourselves, and drank the health of those little fairies who must surely preside over so enchanting a spot; for if the little green-kirtled gentry dwell anywhere in this degenerate age, it must indeed be here, where no mischievous youngsters can molest them by throwing pebbles and dirt into the eyes of the tiny and invisible brotherhood. We met here a caballero on horseback, with his dog and gun, who said he had been to the top in quest of game. The only game we could espy were a few little humming-birds.

The ascent cost us nearly an hour of pretty hard work, and it frequently requires almost one and a half. In this zigzag manner much ground is necessarily travelled over. The little hermitage, which looks so white and neat from the base of the mountain, does not improve, like its great supporter, upon a nearer acquaintance; but is discovered to be a misshapen, ruinous old building, and not worthy of even a passing remark, save the expression of wonder, which immediately occupies the mind upon reaching it, at the deal of expense and toil they must have been at in rearing it! and for what purpose? To make fools climb up as an act of devotion! Sad stories are told of the wonted dissipation of the monks here.

A great fiesta used formerly to be held once a year on the summit, and is still partially kept up. No religious order live here now, but service is occasionally performed by an order from the city. An Indian family, who occupy a wing of the building, is left in charge of the place; but they had not the keys of the church; so we climbed to a window, and saw that the interior was in even a worse condition than the outside. It is provided with a small belfry and bells, the sound of which, when heard from below, has a singular effect. Here also stands a gallows, which was formerly used for the execution of criminals of some sort. On these occasions the body, dangling in the air at this height, must have been terrifically visible on a clear day to the whole city. The area of this summit may possibly measure about three acres of very good soil, not a foot of which is cultivated by this lazy Indian family.

Even a fine plot, the former garden of the convent, walled in, and hanging down on the sunny side of the mountain in front of the hermitage, has been suffered to fall into complete ruin! a bunch or two of pinks, and a few ragged rose-trees, are all

that now remain of what once must have been a most rare and beautiful spot, under the superintendence of the *Padres*. A pretty close illustration, this, of the trite but true old adage, "Lazy people take the most pains!" I am sure almost any other description of rational beings would have preferred the trouble of making the spot around them produce the few common vegetables they required, to lugging them up a steep mountain of 1600 feet.

It is a great wonder, indeed, that so very few of the foreigners of taste who have resided in Bogotá should have visited a spot which would so amply have compensated them for any little trouble encountered in the ascent. The view is most grand and unique. On approaching, in front, to the very verge of the mountain's brow, and leaning upon the parapet or low wall which closes in the flagged platform extending the length of the hermitage, one can look down upon the city, where it appears dwindled down to a perfect miniature size as it lies far below.

People look like rats crossing the Plaza Mayor, and the whole interiors of convent and private yards open up like the squares upon a chessboard. Beyond lies the plain, like a large lake, with its amphitheatre of hills, in whose perfect symmetrical sweep the eye cannot discern a single break. Yon thick and misty cloud, ever hovering over the same spot, points out the deep-falling waters of the Tiquendama. Farther to the right lies the Zipaquira range. To the left, Guadaloupe lifts its head, still far above her humble sister. The view from the rear is dreary enough. You look down upon one little short valley, while beyond, as far as the eye can reach, rises a succession of ragged, barren hills, piled one upon another; and, when witnessed in the cloudy, tempestuous month of August, the time I made my second ascent on purpose to view

the change of scene, is one of indescribable and terrific grandeur. At that time we had chosen our day, when low, heavy white clouds hung even midway down the mountain; sometimes they were hurriedly broken up by a strong wind, which, entering the deep gorge of the Bocarron, drove the whirling masses far out into the plain below, thus affording one short glimpse of the little white hermitage over head ere another cloudy covering obscured the scene. As the wind came from the rearward, we felt but little of it until we had gained the summit; and, after rising the first two or three hundred feet from the base, we saw nothing more of the city until some time after we had been on the top. The misty vapour quite saturated our hair and clothes, and we felt extremely chilly and disagreeable. Occasional blinks of sunshine greeted us at the top, yet the air was excessively damp and cold, and we would have willingly given a round peseta for the use of an Indian ruana for about half an hour or so. We had substituted bandanas for hats, as the wind, which rushed past us in violent gusts, requiring nearly all our strength to keep upright, would have rendered the latter entirely unmanageable. The view then presented in the rear of the mountain beggars all description. It must be seen to be properly felt and appreciated.

I looked around for my two companions; and they were actually struggling for breath in the teeth of the violent wind. Indeed, the whole three of us might have served as no bad personifications of Macbeth's witches, with this single exception, that, had "rude Boreas" taken it into his head to puff us from off our narrow foothold, there would have been strong doubts of our ability to land at the bottom of the ravine quite as easily as if we had been those disimbodied spirits. One of our party must have thought of this, for, when a blast still stronger than

any of the preceding came upon us, he threw himself upon the ground until it had passed over. On came the eddying masses of cloud and vapour, separated and tossed into every shape as they were dashed against the bleak gray peak of some of the hundred hills behind us. In exact similitude to the deep long waves of ocean, you might here watch the rise and progress of each heavy mass of vapour, as for some distance it came rolling onward in smooth unbroken way, until, whirled against the sides of a higher mountain than that from which it rose, it became scattered and disjointed, and lost amid the misty sea. The peaks of these hills, alternately visible as they were through this troubled atmosphere, with their dark heads reared to the very sky, appeared in truth the genii of the storm, at whose dread command the tempest-clad legions of the vapoury waste came forth to whirl and rage before them.

After warming ourselves by the fire which the Indians had kindled, we descended by the path by which we had come up; thus faring better than on our present ascent, at which time we were foolhardy enough to attempt returning by the back of the mountain, washed as it was by the river. Few or none had ever ventured this way, as there was no regular path, and the descent was more perpendicular and rocky, and, consequently, the footing, at best, but very precarious.

We began by keeping along a sharp rocky ridge, which runs out from the hermitage toward the ravine for about forty yards, when we struck off to the left, and were making a rapid and tolerably easy descent, when our farther progress was for a moment arrested by finding ourselves on the brow of a perpendicular ledge of rocks, which, not without a tedious circumvention, we at last passed. And now we discovered that we had struck out very near

the gorge itself: but it was too late to remedy the evil, which could only be done by reascending to the very summit; and this, by the path we had come, would have cost us full half an hour's labour, when the descent had been made in about ten or twelve minutes. So we proceeded onward, securing our feet in fissures of the rock, or grasping the long tufted grass or slight shrubs with which the mountain was partially covered. One of us was nearly precipitated into the San Augustine by the falling of a detached portion of rock; and notwithstanding I had been used to climbing, yet did I experience great giddiness of the head whenever occasion required my looking downward; for we well knew how little security was to be placed on the majority of our mountain supports, should an unlucky slip of the foot cause the whole weight of the body to come upon the hands. The descent occupied us for nearly one hour and a quarter; and the fatigue, especially to the legs and wrists, was excessive; the former shaking violently under us after gaining the bottom. Besides, we were much bruised and scratched. My boots were entirely demolished, and divers unseemly rents in our garments bore ample testimony to the folly of descending from Montserrate by any other road than the one originally laid out by the worthy friars of the hermitage.

Twice, also, I ascended Guadaloupe, a much more weary task than that of Montserrate. For a great portion of the way, the path leads up through the dried bed of a winter torrent, not more than from five to eight feet wide, the sides of which rise, in many places, perpendicularly to the height of between twelve and fifteen feet; and on this account the view, in ascending, is nothing like so picturesque as that of Montserrate. When about half way up, or less, you reach a beautiful little plain, covered

with tall shrubs; a smooth road leading through it, around the bottom of the hill, to the country beyond. Here stand the walls of an unfinished convent, intended to have supplied the place of the one on the summit, now in ruins. From this you enter the bed of the torrent, the straight, rocky sides of the cone itself rising close beside it, and frowning down upon you. The pathway continues the same until you enter as suddenly upon the summit of the mountain, as you would through a trapdoor upon the roof of a building. Guadaloupe retains its perfect conelike form to the very top, the whole level extent of which is less than one English acre and a half; a more fairy spot, in the full summer season, could not be wished for. The short, thick, velvet-like carpet, rich with the most beautiful mosses; the various flowering shrubs, alive with humming birds and different other kinds; the retiredness of the scene, not even disturbed by the most remote hum from the city, all render it worthy of a visit. A person of warm fancy has but to withdraw into the very centre of this spot, thereby shutting out from his view both city and plain, to imagine himself in a world of his own, where he may muse away secure from all interruption. My first ascent was made alone, and no rural excursion in my whole lifetime ever repaid me half so well. I had brought with me a small mining hammer, wherewith to examine the various strata of rock; also an excellent pocket telescope, which, with a small flask of Port and a few biscuits, served to while away several hours of as sweet a day as ever blessed so charming a climate.

The ruins of Our Lady of Guadaloupe show the convent to have been of considerable extent, strongly built of stone and brick. Two large pillars of hewn stone, which faced the great front entrance, are left standing; also a small portion of the main building.

A deep, heavy wall, extending the whole length of the front, and reaching about twelve feet down the mountain, seems intended to have secured it against any accident that might arise from the loosening, by rains or otherwise, of any portion of the ground, and also to carry out a fine flagged platform, the same as at Montserrate. On the top of this wall, which rises a few feet above the level of the hill, stands an iron cross. The building was demolished by the earthquake of 1827, the shock of which was so great as to cast an immense part of the material down upon a platform of the mountain below; and among other things the stone image of Our Lady herself, which proved, however, to have received no injury from the unceremonious mode of her descent. This the monks noised abroad as a confirmed miracle, the belief of which was farther strengthened by the fact, that next morning her ladyship, to show her unqualified predilection for her old quarters, had resumed, *during the night*, her accustomed seat on the old spot by the late ruins. All this was duly trumpeted forth and made the most of by the crafty monks.

The whole of that day the pathway up the mountain was thronged with people of every description, age, and sex, each anxious to witness, with his own organs of vision, so wonderful an event. Alas! for the rebuilding of the convent, and the preservation of a fraternity long before suspiciously eyed by the government, as not being the most liege of citizens! the incredulous executive not only forbade the rebuilding of the old convent, but stopped also the erection of a new one on the site hallowed by her ladyship's fall, although the walls were nearly enclosed. So the image was conveyed to the church of San Juan de Dios, a branch of the same fraternity. Nay, some of the more hardened unbelievers in this astonishing miracle, imboldened by these

proceedings of the government, were even known to whisper stories of a number of shaven crowns having been seen, in the murky hours of that eventful night, puffing and heaving their fat sides, as they toiled up the mountain, bearing upon their broad shoulders the pliant yet flinty form of her ladyship! Be this as it may, Our Lady of Guadaloupe has manifested a strong distaste for travelling ever since, and, I dare say, thinks her snug quarters in the city church much more comfortable and ladylike than the summit of an open, bleak mountain.

There is a fine walk lying immediately behind the Fabrica de Loza, where a good road follows the natural course of the base of the first rise of hills overlooking the city. It affords also a pleasant ride, but is little frequented for either purpose by the citizens. Why, I cannot tell, unless it be that the trifling ascent which must be made in order to reach it proves too much for the natural indolence of the pedestrian, while the absence of Chicha shops, like those in the plains, in like manner deters the mounted caballero. In every other respect it is certainly much pleasanter than their filthy alameda. I have counted upon this spot upward of thirty different kinds of evergreens, which cover the sides of the low parts of these mountains, varying from six inches to as many feet in height, when full grown. Some of these bear a rich scarlet bell-flower, and would form a fine garden hedge. Many of them have a leaf resembling the myrtle and boxwood, and others look strikingly like the heather of Scotland.

My visit to the Salto or Falls of Tiquendama took place but a short time previous to my leaving Bogotá, but I give the description here for the sake of preserving order in the work. On this occasion, our party consisted only of my young clerk, Taylor, my servant Chepe, and myself. Having selected one of the bright days in the month of January, we

started off at the early hour of five A. M., in order to view the Salto during the only hours of the day in which it can at all be seen to advantage, viz., between ten in the forenoon and about one P. M.; as before or after that time, the mists constantly cover the bottom of the valley, and more than half of the prospect is lost. The entire distance of the falls from the city is not quite five leagues, the road lying through the plains to Soacha, a small Indian village, where travellers, or those who visit the neat little lakes of the same name in search of water-fowl, usually take a repast of chocolate, boiled eggs, &c. This part of the plain is extremely barren, and bears no resemblance to that on the Camino Real, leading to Bogotá. Much of it consists of nothing but arid sand, with scarcely a blade of grass growing. At Soacha we procured a guide, and proceeded on, crossing the river Bogotá by a tolerably neat wooden bridge, where the ascent from the plains begins. Here is a very pretty hacienda, owned by Señor Urricachea, who also possesses the coal-mines near the Salto. A number of fine stacks of grain indicated the richness of the land after leaving Soacha. Beyond this we pass some barren hills, where scarcely anything grows but the prickly pear, and gain a second set called Chipa, well coated with grass, and bearing fine large trees. The road now became wide and beautiful. The descent to the falls commences through a thickly wooded forest, whose arching branches form a most agreeable shade for the whole remaining distance. The climate is several degrees warmer here than in the plains. The road, as you proceed in the descent, becomes quite steep and broken in some places, and must be almost impassable during the wet season. Arrived within about three hundred feet of the falls, we dismounted upon a fine circular platform, as if formed on purpose, where we tied our wearied horses, leav-

ing a small boy, who had joined the guide on the road, in charge of them.

The remainder of the descent on foot is even worse than that on horseback—a sort of half scrambling business, not at all pleasant. It is astonishing at what a short distance the roar of this great cataract is heard. Scarcely is a murmur audible a few feet above the platform where we dismounted. The near approach to the brink of the waters being thickly lined with trees and underwood, terminates very abruptly near the very edge of the torrent itself; and thus the first glimpse of the river affords little either to interest or surprise the visiter, the waters gliding on so silently over the abrupt descent.

The river here, at this season, may not probably be more than forty feet wide, which is about the width of the rocky precipice itself, although its bed is much wider. But when the rains have been so heavy as to fill the whole bed, it must be an unfavourable time to view the cataract, as the immense body of water pouring over, added to the denseness of the atmosphere below, must detract much from the beauty of the prospect in a thousand ways. As it was, my visit was well timed. The whole depth of the descent was visible, and we could clearly define the form of the edge of the precipice itself, which is of one solid rock, though channelled by a long course of time into four deep beds, through which the waters now rush down, leaving the peaks of the rock thus worn quite above the stream. One of these was about three feet square, and I was told that Bolivar once stood upon it, as did also Mr. Albert Gooding, now of New-York city; quite a foolhardy and unprofitable adventure, one would think, especially as these rocks are coated with a thick green scum, very slippery to the touch, and that they project over the fearful abyss. Over this broken ledge of rocks the river descends upon a

second, about twenty-five feet lower, whence it dashes headlong with terrific foamings into the abyss below. The entire height of these falls is variously computed from 550 to 650 feet, although the latter appears to me to be nearest the mark. The appearance of the water, after the first fall, is that of an interminable succession of rolling cascades of thick, foaming white, or of heavy light-coloured clouds violently agitated by the winds. Then it assumes a broad fleecy form, which, at the instant of a farther descent, is parted into innumerable small particles, like snow-flakes, which change into various hues before it finally rests in the valley below, where the river is again seen to wind away, presenting to the eye a stream of only half the size it is above, and of dazzling whiteness. Some travellers write that it is really thus diminished; that the water, in descending, loses so much of its bulk by evaporation, &c. If so, then it regains somehow its former quantum very suddenly, at a few miles' distance on the plains below! I am inclined to believe that none of these writers ever stood by the river after it reached the valley, but have taken up their opinion more from the appearance it presents at the misty height from which they viewed it, than anything else; for although, as a natural effect, evaporation must reduce it somewhat, it could not lessen it so much as one half, nor one quarter either. The perpendicular sides of the chasm recede a little from the fall, forming a sweeping curve of perfect symmetry The rock consists of a soft, dark-coloured granite, and with the mountains beyond rising over them, covered as they are to the very summit with the most beautiful flowering and other trees, present a scene of unsurpassed grandeur and magnificence. Beautiful rainbows are formed about the valley, as the light spray dashes nearly to the opposite shores. We observed three of these at one

time, all varying in shape, colour, and size, while the numerous species of parrots, and birds of a thousand dies, keep flying about, as if anxious to contrast their gay and varied plumage with the bright and watery hues of the rainbows themselves. My servant Chepe, with all the superstition of the Indian respecting the well-known history of the origin of these falls (a superstition which all their Christianity has not yet removed), believing them to have been caused by their god and earthly ruler, Bochica, to drain off the great lake of waters from the present plains of Bogotá, which was originally brought there through the malevolent designs and workings of his wife Chia, never once looked over into the chasm; and when he was pressed to tell his reasons, and asked if it was from the fear of falling, replied, "Not so; but who knows what sort of people might be down there."

We could step about upon the rocks in the very bed of the river with perfect safety, even to within six feet of the descent; while, from the perfect smoothness of the gliding stream, and the suppressed roar of the cataract, the senses seemed almost unwilling to credit the idea that we actually stood by one of the greatest and most romantic works of nature (of the class) in the whole universe.

There can be no parallel drawn between Tiquendama and Niagara. Each is the very first of its class; but there is a total dissimilarity in the descent, in their depth, and quantity of waters, as well as in their respective surrounding scenery, that one who has witnessed both can only speak of them as regards the different effects the sight of each is adapted to produce upon the mind, and which leaves the most abiding impressions. Niagara delights and surprises us most at first sight. There is a sort of forced constraint (I cannot find other words to express my meaning better), which causes us to

dwell upon her overwhelming rush of waters; and to me she appears like a fine woman possessed of every outward charm to awe and dazzle the beholder on his first gaze, but lacking that soul so necessary to preserve the affections alive and unfading. Tiquendama, on the contrary, when first seen, scarcely startles one into any sudden rhapsodies of either mind or manner; but captivates and enchains the admiration of the beholder by the most softened, though sublimely majestic approaches. Each gaze adown and around that romantic valley but draws out some new feature, and discovers some fresh charm. Its vast profundity is as the soul itself, unfathomably deep and incomprehensibly grand, while birds, and trees, and air for ever captivate and enchain the willing sense.

The whole bed of the river here seems to be of the same soft granite as that of which the strata forming the valley is composed, and is worn into singular and fantastic shapes by the current, making small arches of about a foot each, all communicating, as well as holes of various shapes and depths. Beautiful trees line the banks as far up as the eye can reach. Below the falls, the view is not so extended, as a sudden bend shuts it out. Here, however, there is another small fall, not generally considered worth the trouble of visiting, the way to it lying through a thick underwood. We looked about in order to discover any names there might be carved upon the adjoining trees, to mark the visits of preceding travellers, but none were to be found; so we set the example, and placed our own on a small smooth-barked tree, which quite overhangs the stream, scarcely ten yards from the brink of the falls.

There is no other way of descending the chasm than by entering it through the village of La Mesa, in tierra caliente (hot country), and so passing up. This is a very great loss. Had these people a sin-

gle portion of Yankee ingenuity about them, a fit mode of descent would not long be wanting, and a good penny might be made from it too; for the old story of the conquered Indians having cast the immensity of their treasures into the basin below is still as current as ever among all classes here. I heard a rather intelligent person of the country say, that on one occasion, when the day was remarkably clear, and with the assistance of a good glass, some person had plainly discovered the reflection of a diamond of gigantic size, and that he himself believed it to have been the case! A mad project was actually once set on foot in the capital, to turn the river out of its present course, in order to obtain these, in my opinion, fabulous treasures.

I have seen three different sketches of these falls, all of which bear but a faint resemblance to the original, probably because taken at a side view from the top. The best one of these, in the possession of Colonel Joachim Acosta, of Bogotá, was in a French work; the author's name I forget. I brought away specimens of the rock, and a pretty red flower plucked from a spot near the very edge of the chasm; another flower was obtained by stretching myself full length upon the ground, while the two lads held me by the feet, enabling me thus to reach the singular flower, and to pluck it from where it grew, a distance of nearly three feet below the brink of the chasm.

We got back to Bogotá about four o'clock P. M., which fully proves, there is no need of following up an old practice of starting on a visit to the Salto in time to sleep at Soacha on the night previous, so as to be in time for the morning's view. The very thought, indeed, of sleeping in the dirty Indian village is sufficient to destroy the whole of the next day's anticipated pleasure. The vicinity of Soacha is noted for its beautiful little lakes, which, in their

season, are filled with fine duck and other water-fowl. For the purpose of shooting these, this village is much frequented by foreigners, the natives having but little or no taste for this manly recreation. The Indians, however, take the fowl by a different process; for a day or two they scatter corn upon the surface of the water for the fowl to pick; at the same time setting afloat a number of large calabashes, with holes cut in the sides. When they think their game is sufficiently accustomed to the sight of the calabashes, one or more enter the water, after having plentifully besprinkled it with maize; and there, with their heads concealed underneath the calabashes, quietly await the alighting of their prey. As the water chosen for their purpose is generally the neck connecting two of the little lakes, it is quite fordable, and thus they are enabled to move about among the fowl, which are busily engaged in feeding, and to capture many by drawing them quickly down beneath the water. They have also various other modes of taking them.

The excursion to Pandi was planned for the 24th of December, so as to take in the fiesta at Fusagasuga. Our party on this occasion consisted of Messrs. Gooding, Joseph Peak, Señor Gregorio Dominguez, and myself. We left Bogotá at half past six A. M., mounted on excellent horses, and well provided with travelling stores; for we had despatched the day previous two mules of burden in advance of us, well loaded with ready-cooked provision, bedding, &c.; enough, at least, for a fortnight's use. Experience daily teaches a resident here that the best inn on any road he may travel in this county is that which is found at his own saddlebow. The road to Pandi lies across the plains by Soacha, the same as to the Salto, but keeping a straightforward direction, instead of turning to the right and crossing the river Bogotá. In

a field close to the road, I saw three sheep of the Lima breed, the only ones of the kind I had seen here. Towards the extremity of the plain, the country becomes suddenly well wooded, having fine clear streams of water running through it; and to all appearance the soil is very rich. A part of this reminded me strongly of English scenery. Here the road was excellent, and we pushed on at a brisk pace. The descent from the plain is very abrupt; much like descending a pair of stairs, and the road becomes even more execrable than the very worst part of that between Honda and the capital. Heavy pieces of timber are inserted across the pathway to form landings for the animals' feet, without which it would be impossible to descend, as the road is covered with large gravel and stones, the size of those used for paving, which, being kept constantly wet with the springs flowing out here, render it rather dangerous footing for a beast; much more so, too, in the descent than ascent. Some portion of the way is barely wide enough for man and horse; and having steep sides, with a multitude of abrupt angles, it requires much caution in the riders to preserve their limbs from being bruised against branches of trees and the projecting rocks. Here we entered a dense forest, which yields nearly all the timber used in the capital and country round for building. This timber, after being rough squared where it is felled, is dragged in by mules and cattle. The labour of raising it up to the level plain, by a road like this, must be very severe.

During the heavy rains this pathway becomes the bed of an impetuous torrent; during which time travelling is considered highly dangerous. Although it still lacked two months of the rainy season setting in, Sr. Dominguez assured us we had better prepare our caucha ruanas, as he had never yet known an instance of persons reaching Fusagasuga

without a shower; and sure enough, although when we left the plains not a cloud was visible, we had but barely gained the bottom of the first descent, when we found ourselves in a damp, chilly atmosphere, and our cauchas stood us in good need during a full hour's rain. But the instant we rose upon nearly a level with the plains of Fusagasuga, nothing could equal the clearness of the sky and the balmy softness of the air. Yet, altogether, this piece of road between the two plains is most execrable and fatiguing. After the rain commenced, our horses were continually slipping under us. Walking, had it been at all practicable, would have been far preferable. When about midway, we stopped at a hut, boiled our chocolate, and partook of an excellent repast of our own furnishing; I say our own, for you must always except a Bogotano companion's contribution. Here we met with a tienda keeper in the Calle Real, who was returning from the fiesta, but who immediately altered his mind at sight of la buena comida de los Ingleses (the good dinner of the Englishmen); these people call all who speak English, Englishmen, and most kindly offered to accompany us back to Fusagasuga. The tediousness of this part of our journey was occasionally relieved by spots of interesting scenery, consisting of cascades, stupendous rocks piled up one upon another, and a great variety of the most beautiful forest-trees. On the skirts of the plains we met Mr. Vanlansberge, the Dutch consul, who, with his family, had been residing some weeks in the village for a change of climate. He was on one of his scientific tours, to add to his fine collection of insects; this neighbourhood being particularly celebrated as a great haunt for the horned and other beetles of immense size. The consul turned back with us, and a short ride brought our little cavalcade to the

village of Fusagasuga, at four P. M., a distance of about twelve leagues from the capital. This was called astonishingly rapid travelling by the whole multitude of friends and acquaintances from the city whom we found awaiting us. Among these were Señor Santa Maria, and his nephew Louis; Señor Sylva, &c., &c.; General Mantilla and daughter were also here. About, probably, two hundred strangers were spending a holyday here, and the little village was as lively as dancing, bull-shows, aguardiente, and hearts determined to cast dull care behind for a season, could make it. We had taken the precaution of hiring a house before the fiesta began, which we managed to do through means of a Bogotano, who was going there to keep a house for public entertainment during the feast. Otherwise I doubt much whether we should have been able to obtain one at the late day on which we arrived, being the third of the fiesta. Fusagasuga may contain in all 150 houses and huts, with a neat little church. One short street is paved, to which they have given the ostentatious name of "Calle Real." There is no appearance of trade in the place, and although the situation of the town is exceedingly pretty, with a climate several degrees milder than that of Bogotá, yet the plain itself is rather steril; some part of it being very stony, a thing I had not observed to be the case before in any of the plains I had travelled through. A small but pretty river runs close by; and there is a place, just in rear of the town, called "los Robles" (the Oaks), which is a delightful spot, enclosed on all sides by tall beautiful trees. Hither companies of visiters often resorted to hold a bailecita (little dance), and partake of a "dulce" at the same time. Our little cabin consisted of but barely a Scotch "but and ben," with a kitchen in the rear; the

whole enclosing a good yard for our horses; for which accommodations we paid at the rate of four dollars per week.

The greatest difficulty we met with was in procuring provender for our horses, the price of which was a match only for the deserts of Arabia. We often gave a real for a very small bundle of grass, and two for the same quantity of green stalks of maize. On the first evening of our arrival we retired very early to rest, after the fatiguing ride we had had. We, however, first entered our names as regular subscribers to the succession of balls to be given, which were very respectably conducted; a band of music having been brought for the express purpose from Bogotá.

We continued in this place until the 27th, enjoying ourselves as we best might, and our *particular* friends, the Bogotanos, making fearful inroads into our nice hams, brandy, wines, &c.

A game called loteria (lottery) was much in vogue during the day among all our ball-going party; but large sums were not staked, being merely resorted to as a pastime. I was tempted to sit down once or twice at the urgent request of some ladies, who promised to initiate me into the mysteries of the game. It is very simple, consisting merely of a number of pasteboard cards, which have probably from eight to twenty numbers printed upon them. Each person, taking one or two of these, awaits the drawing of a small ball from out a bag in the hands of one of the company, which ball is also numbered. Should you happen to have a number on your card corresponding to that on the ball, you must mark it by placing a grain of maize over the figure. The balls are thus continued to be drawn, and their numbers called out, until one of the card-holders has a complete row of figures marked out, when he announces it by calling out

"loteria," and then the whole amount of contribution lying upon the table is declared his. Each contribution never amounted to more than one real at the time that I played; but many make pretty heavy side-bets on the coming up of certain figures agreed upon. I observed the ladies of the company to be by far the most enthusiastic players of this game. One in particular, rather in the decline of life, whose two daughters and newly made son-in-law were also present at the table, became very much chagrined at her succession of ill-luck, the outburstings of which were smothered for some time; but, after losing the twentieth dollar, borrowed from her son-in-law, she could contain herself no longer; but, clapping her fat hands together, exclaimed, looking most piteously towards the little pile of reals which I was about sweeping into my purse, "Ah, demonio! se fue todo mi fortuna cuando entraron estos Ingleses!" (ah, the demon! all my luck fled at the entrance of these Englishmen!) Señor Sylva, who was then endeavouring to speak English, had at one time the charge of casting the balls from the bag; when, out of sheer sport, or perhaps to show off his English, first called out the numbers in that language, and afterward in Spanish, to all which some of us would occasionally reply. This gave great offence to the ex-governor, General Mantilla, who requested Mr. Sylva and all others "que hablen Christiano," that is to say, "to speak in a Christian tongue." So much for General Mantilla's good sense and manners! Poor fellow! *his* self-styled *Christian tongue* bids pretty fair yet to become a dead letter, while that of the *heretic English* shall be the home word of millions of happy people in every quarter of the inhabited globe.

We started for Pandi at half past ten on the morning of the 27th, having our number now augmented by the company of Señor Pombo, brother

to the minister for foreign affairs. A short ride through this barren part of the plain brought us suddenly, by a descent, into a country the very reverse of that to which we entered on leaving the plains of Bogotá. The wand of the greatest wizard that ever exerted his all-powerful sway could not have effected a change so sudden as this. A good road leads down the mountain amid flowering trees; the whole air is delightfully perfumed; and innumerable birds and butterflies of the gayest plumage wing their way about our path, while the balmy softness of the air tempts one strongly to dismount from his horse and loiter away the day in so sweet a place. Some of these butterflies are of an astonishing size, and of a rich blue colour. Each of us was loud in shouting forth our admiration of the beauty of the scene. Indeed, had I known it to have been thus, this visit should not have been my first, as a ride of only half an hour brought us to it. Descending this picturesque mountain, we crossed, by a long, feeble wicket bridge, the river Fusagasuga, which here rushes on through a country rich in everything but an intelligent and industrious population. We had no small difficulty in inducing our horses to cross the narrow bridge, which, by its vacillating movements, and by the deafening roar of the waters as they tumbled far beneath, was well calculated to cause man as well as beast to pause a while ere venturing upon a pathway apparently so precarious. Some trees on this plain bear a flower different from any I had hitherto seen; at a little distance it resembled a star with full rays, the tips of which were of a pink colour, and the centre white, of about the size of a dollar, and perfectly flat. It appeared on the tree as if placed there by art. The leaf of this tree is like that of the sensitive plant; and the height of none that I saw exceeded twenty feet. Not one of our party could

tell me its name, and it was of no use to ask information from a native. Several times before they had given the name "roble" to those I inquired about. We saw here likewise many large-topped trees hanging thick with a species of moss, which I had observed to be very common in many parts of South Carolina and Georgia of the United States. The road now continued very good for about two or three leagues, the land appearing quite rich and pretty thickly inhabited, the huts of the Indian farmers lying along the road. The sugarcane and maize seemed to be the chief productions. At this place we passed the splendid estate owned at present by Señor Antonio Santa Maria, and called "La Puerta" (the door). Its shape is a raised oblong flat, the sides teeming with the richest verdure, and must contain many hundred acres. Yet, withal, it lacks that greatest of all necessaries, water. To obviate this defect, its former possessor commenced laying a wooden aqueduct from the opposite hill at a very great expense, and which I believe to be yet incomplete.

This part of the country, however, is generally very well watered, and the inhabitants seem a much more thriving race than those on the road to Honda. At one o'clock P. M. we stopped to dine at a very neat-looking little cottage, where we boiled our chocolate, and procured, in addition to our own stores, a few pieces of boiled arracachas, a salad, and some fine figs from the prickly pear, a most grateful and cooling fruit. In eating these, however, one must be very careful to free them first from their thorns; for, should the least particle enter the mouth it will create a most unpleasant sensation for several hours.

Spying some fine turkeys in the yard, we purchased one for a few reals, with orders to have it roasted, and ready for us on the morrow at the same

hour, which they promised to do. Poor things, the mere sight of a few pieces of silver coin, and a little foreign brandy, accompanied with a few medical directions given to two of the inmates long sick of a sort of fever and ague, made them flock around us as if we had been so many demigods, ready to fulfil our slightest pleasure. The remainder of the road to Pandi, where we arrived at about half past six P. M., was more mountainous. Some parts of it were extremely bad, owing to the perpendicular ascent of the mountains. We found the greatest difficulty in procuring quarters for the night. One family, luckily, took our horses and disposed of them in a small yard in the rear of their house; but the hut itself was already so crammed with inmates, two of whom were groaning on a sick bed, that, after leaving our saddles and baggage in their charge, we sallied forth, by Señor Pombo's advice, to pay a visit to the curé, who personally knew his brother, the minister in Bogotá, trusting either to find accommodations in his house, the only decent-looking one in the village, for one night (if only room to swing our hammocks), or else to have his counsel and directions where to go in search of them. We found the curé seated in a large square room, without either mat or carpet on the clay-composed floor. The furniture consisted of two long, bare settees, a few leather-bottomed, home-manufactured chairs, and a small square table, made of some dark-coloured wood, upon which was placed some segars, a fine melon, and two or three books! Yet this man's salary was nearly eight hundred dollars per annum; which sum, as far as regards the real value of money in procuring the comforts and necessaries of life, is in this country more than double the same amount in the States!

We were doomed to find his courtesy, like his apartment, dull and cheerless enough. Upon Señor

Pombo's introducing himself and us, and stating the object of our visit, and the strait we were in for lodgings for the night, he begged us to be seated, ordered segars, and then commenced a long dissertation upon the poverty of the village and its inhabitants; concluding by offering to let one of his servants accompany us, and assist in hunting up better quarters than those afforded by the crowded hut wherein our luggage was stowed!

The poor people at that hut had told us, when we started, that we would not find the curé either very accommodating or very communicative; and that he was totally different from their former curé in these respects. The latter, now some few years removed, they said, was of a liberal, generous spirit, always giving much alms to the poor, and invariably inviting respectable travellers, who might visit Pandi on their way to the bridge, to lodge and eat at his house; and that he would afterward accompany them himself, in order to point out the beauties of the place. Whereas this man, they added, was of a very sour disposition, and close-handed (el mano apretado), and led a life of deep debauch. For the truth of this latter assertion, one glance at his face, which was covered with rum pimples, the nose and mouth too surely indicating the presence of one of the most loathsome and dreadful of all diseases, was more than sufficient. One of the women in his house, who brought us fire to light our segars, and been a noted character in the capital, and was even now very handsome. Finally, we procured a room with a tolerable breadth of beam, which allowed of our crowding in our five hammocks; and here we passed a very pleasant night, unannoyed by insects of any kind whatever.

Pandi is a most wretched little village, consisting of about sixty straggling huts, and a population of perhaps five hundred souls, who seem possessed of

neither wealth nor craft of any kind; their sole species of manufacture being a coarse kind of brown sugar, called panela, formed into little round cakes of about three pounds each, a few ruanas of cotton cloth, and small fancy baskets, although the small valley in which the village stands is far from presenting an unfertile appearance. There is a good trait, however, in these poor people's favour, and worthy of record in a country like this: they are said to be honest; as no small proof of which assertion, I can say, that we left the place without missing a single article, although we brought no servant to attend to our baggage.

Rising at daybreak, and returning to our old host, we desired him in the first place to prepare us a little chocolate as a preliminary to our breakfast.

"I do not know," said he, "if there be a single cake in the village!"

"Then boil us some eggs."

"The curé has all the eggs, Señores."

"Have you milk?"

"No milk!"

"Nor meat of any kind?"

"No, Señores!"

"Kill us, then, a couple of those fowls in the yard."

"We cannot pay our tithes without them."

"But you can surely procure for us, by being well repaid, some fruits, potatoes, dulces, or plantains?"

"There is nothing of the kind in the place," said the poor fellow, a most woful expression overspreading his countenance, and at the same time elevating his shoulders to a level with his head; "dulces we never use; potatoes we do not grow, nor rice; and as to plantains, they will not be here these three days yet!"

"Well, but what do you have to live on in these parts, besides the water you drink?"

"Quien sabe, Señores?" ("who knows?").

"Do you mean to say you really do not know?"

"Our principal food is plantains and sugar; and sometimes pork and casava, or Indian bread!"

And here the matter of the Pandi breakfast ended.

We made out as well as we best could from our own stores, with the help of a little bread which our droll host succeeded in bribing away from some hungry mouth just ready to seize and devour it.

A few minutes sufficed for our simple repast. After which we proceeded, with our host as guide, to visit some rare specimens of huge rocks which lie close to the village on the opposite banks of the river Pandi, which here flows through scenery as rich and varied as any enthusiastic lover of nature could well desire to witness.

A narrow footpath led us immediately from the banks of the river up a steep declivity, thickly wooded, directly to the objects of our search. We found these to be rocks of gigantic size, of the same species of stone as we subsequently discovered the natural bridge to be composed of. Five or six of the largest of these, which were rounded, and lying on the surface of the ground, with no other stones of the like kind around them, must no doubt have been cast here from some more distant quarter, during a similar convulsion to that which opened up the great crevice of Icononzo. In the face of one of these rocks is an oval-shaped hole extending far in, and quite wide enough to admit a man's body. It is so perfectly smooth and rounded, that at the first glance one would take it to be the work of art; but by examining the rock in other parts, several indications were apparent of its possessing soft veins of something like freestone running through it, evidencing

the excavation to be nothing more than the action of time upon them. Some parts of these stones have the appearance of being highly polished. Upon them are various inscriptions of Indian hieroglyphics in red and black colours, which, our Indian guide informed us, had always been there, according to their traditions. It is true that we tried every effort, both by wetting and hard rubbing, to remove the colouring, but in vain.

Mounting our horses, we proceeded on toward the bridge, which is about two English miles from the village, and the road, not being of the very worst description, we were barely half an hour in reaching it.

If the traveller approach the very brink of the precipice which forms the descent to the Falls of Tiquendama ere he is aware of his proximity to it, still more unconsciously does he that of the Natural Bridge at Pandi. A bend in the path, after descending the last hill, brings him immediately upon the bridge, a platform of a few yards only intervening; and but for a railing of cane erected on the bridge by the natives, as a sort of safeguard to the more timorous, a person could scarcely recognise its vicinity, even from this short distance, owing to the view on either side of the narrow road being rendered so limited by woody summits as to allow but little of the sides of the chasm to appear; while the hoarse, low roar of the waters seem to induce the belief that the object of your search lies yet far beyond. The little dell where we dismounted is a most lovely spot, greatly enhancing the delight of a first approach.

We tied our horses to an aged tree which grew close by the way, and a few steps more brought us upon the very centre of the bridge; the rocky arch being so completely coated with earth, that the rich sod gave the most perfect appearance of its being

but a continuation of the road itself. The proportions of this singular formation I here give according to Baron Humboldt, who was at great pains to ascertain them correctly; viz., length of the natural arch, 46 feet; breadth, 40 feet; height of the whole, from the upper bridge to the level of the torrent, 312 feet; height from the upper to the second bridge, 60 feet; entire height of the bridge from the ocean, 2850 feet. The thickness of the stone which forms the upper arch is supposed to be about eight feet; or, I should rather say, the depth of the arch, for it is formed of two distinct stones, one lying above the other, and differing in kind; the uppermost is of rather a soft, dark granite, like that at Tiquendama; while the one underneath is a hard granite, of very light colour and fine grain, spheroidical in shape, and perfectly smooth on all sides. The natives call this last "marmol," or marble; but it is nothing more than the finest grained and whitest coloured granite. From the top of the bridge this is not all perceptible.

We continued for some time gazing over the cane railing into the abyss below, where the river is seen foaming and tumbling over its rocky bed, or rushing through the huge, cavernlike fissures worn into the flinty steep, the deepened dash of which gave forth a hollow, moaning noise, and chimed in well with the screaming of hundreds of a species of owl peculiar to this spot, whose solitude was thus broken in upon by the sound of human voices, an unusual circumstance in so unfrequented a place as this. The birds are described as being of the genus *caprimulgus*, and are said by the Indians to be about the size of a common fowl; but this is not the case, as I ascertained on visiting the lower bridge, where, as I was reclining over the chasm, several of them flew past. They are about the size of a large partridge, and of nearly the same colour,

with a beak like a parrot's. They are never known to leave the chasm, but hatch their young in holes of the rock, never leaving them during the day unless when disturbed, as in the present instance. I was particularly anxious to obtain one of them in order to preserve it as a specimen, as it is believed that not one has ever yet been caught. I had, in consequence of this, previously offered at Pandi the sum of five dollars to any Indian who should succeed in procuring one; but I was told that it was useless to try, as other travellers had even offered the amount of an ounce in gold, and yet failed to obtain one; nor could it ever be discovered, even by watching at night, that the birds leave their closely-kept haunts in the crevice, although they surely must do so if only to procure food!

Descending from the upper bridge (still keeping the Pandi side) by a narrow footpath, which led through thick underwood, we reached the lower stone which composes the natural arch, as already described. Underneath this stone we were enabled to creep along a narrow space of ground, a few feet lower than the portion of the bank on which the end of the huge mass rested, and of sufficient width to afford a perfectly safe and clear passage. By this way we gained the very outer edge, taking care, on looking down into the abyss below, to lie close upon our faces to the earth to prevent giddiness. We returned as we entered, the descent leading on to the second bridge, which lies out from the one above some few feet. This bridge is never used, because it is situated full sixty feet below the brink of the crevice, both sides of which are perfectly perpendicular; and the singularity of its formation, although to all appearance it is quite capable of sustaining any amount of weight, is far from being calculated to inspire much confidence in the attempt, as the least movement of either bank, caused by one

of the numerous earthquakes in this quarter, *might* drop the whole air-poised fabric into the yawning abyss. Only fancy for a moment three huge masses of rock in the act of being hurled into the depths below, and caught midway down, where, by the most equalized and firm compression, they are suspended in air as securely as if the united force and art of an empire had placed them there, *and* you may have a faint conception of this wonderful phenomenon. The middle stone forms the key, as it were, to this mighty arch, and is of an oblong form, reaching a little above the other two.

There is a hole in the very centre of the bridge twice the size of a man's body, through which you can look down into the river. The rush of air through this cavity is tremendous. We threw down stones in order to scare the owls; but unless these stones were of at least two pounds' weight, the strong current of air carried them to a considerable distance from the mark. The trunk of a large tree has been laid down in such a manner as to afford a sort of path to this aperture; but, as it is fast decaying, care should be observed not to tread too heavily. From this we stepped upon a narrow platform, apparently, in part at least, the work of art, and leading for several yards along the face of the cliff, which is here composed of a soft slaty strata, almost crumbling under the foot. At the extremity of this platform, as it rounds a little jutting promontory, you have a sort of front or middle view of the two bridges.

With much difficulty I broke off a small specimen of the white granite stone of the upper arch, neither having taken with me any tool necessary for the purpose, nor being able to find a small stone of the same hardness with which to hammer it off until we hunted one in the forest. We amused ourselves for some time by letting fall through the hole in the

second arch large pieces of rock, some of which required the united aid of all three of us to carry them; and upon this the whole chasm, as far as the view extended, became covered with the affrighted owls.

As at Tiquendama, there is no way here of reaching the bottom of the chasm. About two leagues above is the nearest place of entrance, but I doubt if even there one could reach the bridge, as the sides of the perpendicular rocks are washed by the stream, thus affording no foothold for the most adventurous; while the extreme velocity of the current, added to the multitude of huge rocks which imbed it, might make any attempted passage in a canoe (however stout in itself and well managed) rather a dangerous experiment. The custom prevails at this place also of erecting small wooden crosses on passing the bridge.

Upon the tree to which we had secured our horses we found several names cut, of both foreigners and natives, who had previously visited this spot, but none of any note. We observed that several belonged to people still residing in Bogotá, so we added our own to the number, and then turned back on our way to Pandi. Here we only stopped to brace on our travelling accoutrements, and to prepare ourselves against a shower, which had already partly commenced. It continued to pour down at a steady rate for upward of an hour; but with the broad-brimmed hat of *Jipijapa*, protected by a covering of oiled silk, the India rubber ruana, leopard-skin samaras, or overhauls, and copper shoe stirrups, we were just as dry when we dismounted at the house where we had the previous day ordered dinner as if we had performed the journey in a close carriage. The turkey proved excellent, and never was turkey discussed with a higher relish! The enjoyment of our repast was greatly height-

ened by the precaution we had taken to bribe the whole family, from the older ones down, to leave out, in the culinary process, the usual accompaniments of garlic, colouring, and cumin-seed! "C—," muttered the old squaw, "what strange tastes these English have!" The wine, segars, and conversation after dinner somewhat delayed our setting out, so that it was nightfall when we recrossed the river Fusugasuga. We made the ascent of the mountain well enough, the road being tolerably good; but when we trod the plain, scarcely a vestige of the path could we discover, as the crossing of it to and from Fusugasuga is not confined to one marked track; so we were obliged to strike out at half random. Luckily, the lights from some of the few straggling houses situated here guided us a little, and, after stumbling over stones and through sloughs at no small rate, we reached Fusugasuga at about eight in the evening. Here we remained another day, and then started for Bogotá, our party being about fifteen in number; the natives in our company stopping at every little stream of water on the road, in order to wash down with draughts of the liquid a lump of brown sugar or a dulce of some sort. We reached the capital at half past three P. M. of Sunday, January the first, 1837.

La Mesa and Chuachi are the two places in "tierra caliente" mostly resorted to by invalids, or by those who wish to spend a month or so away from the city during the prevalence of the blustering, chilling gales, termed here "paramos." There are, however, many other places, and individuals make their choice of these generally from the circumstance of their having formed acquaintances there, or from some fancied superiority in the salubrity of the air. In setting out, they generally provide as for a sea-voyage; laying in an ample stock of food and clothing, and taking with them as trusty

a servant as possible. The requisite quantum of bedding is easily transported; for, in those delicious climates, a person will find one of the fine, broad hammocks of the country to be not only most convenient, but comfortable. Some of these hammocks cost two ounces (thirty-two dollars), and are among the best specimens of their home manufacture. For my own part, while recovering from a severe, though short attack of fever, I for many reasons chose Guaduas as a temporary residence. In the first place, all the other resorts of the kind in the neighbourhood of the capital (that is to say, about one or two days' journey from it), are the most isolated places imaginable, and cannot be visited with much pleasure unless in large parties; and these can be but rarely made up here of those who at all possess kindred feeling and sentiments. In the second place, one is out of the direct line of communication with the city, a thing often of the most vital importance. Now, in the sweet little valley of Guaduas, than which no place can boast of a more salubrious climate, the great postroad lies directly through the town, which is very cleanly, orderly, and populous, and containing some few families of respectability and information, in whose society one can occasionally spend an hour or two very pleasantly. The surrounding scenery, its clear, sparkling river, the view from the Sarjento, and the fine, open plain, so well adapted for exercise on horseback, rank Guaduas far above any other place here in my estimation. At La Mesa, on the other hand, one has scarcely room sufficient to wheel a horse on the little flat whereon the village stands.

Among all the inducements which led me to prefer Guaduas, that of being able to spend a day or two with my most esteemed and gentlemanly friend, Mr. Haldane, of Palmar, was not the least. Two

American and one English gentleman accompanied me in this excursion. We occupied a fine, roomy dwelling near that of Colonel Acosta, where we had stabling for our horses and everything complete; our table being supplied daily with the best of poultry, beef, &c.

One day, taking advantage of my three companions' absence on a short visit to Honda, I set out on my longed-for trip to Palmar. On my arrival there, I was gratified to find the family all well and extremely glad to see me.

After partaking of some refreshments and enjoying a snug little chat, a mule was accoutred for my use, and we rode off to visit that part of the estate, situated in the valley, where stands Mr. Haldane's sugar-mill.

We descended to it by the Guaduas road, although it may be reached by another way lying through the estate, but which was then scarcely completed. The valley is a narrow strip of fine land, set deep between the mountains, having two never-failing streams of excellent water running on either side of it. Some of the people were busily employed planting cane, while others were cutting down another crop for the mill. Everything connected with this branch of the establishment was in the best order. A young Scotchman, the principal servant of Mr. Haldane, of whom I shall have occasion, directly, to make farther mention, had the superintendence. I saw here loaf sugar of quite as fine a quality and as white as that of Guaduas.

I was shown the site on which it was intended to erect a new dwelling-house, to be built of the fine basaltic stone found in abundance close by; Mr. H. remarking that his removal from the old place was to be made solely on account of this having so much finer a climate than where he now lived,

which is too chilly during the rainy season, and subject also to thick mists, even while a warm and genial sun sheds abroad its cheering influence.

We crossed over to one of the small rivers which runs along the valley, near the banks of which there is every appearance of a vein of excellent coal. Dismounting, we ascended the bed of the stream, the waters being much reduced in this dry season. Here I also observed very clear indications of iron ore, jet, and antimony, with an abundance of fine limestone. I was shown the wild cinnamon-tree; but, upon tasting the bark, I found a very slight similarity indeed between it and the cinnamon in common use. Our return to the house was by a direct ascent from the valley, up the steep side of the hill on which it stands. This way was chosen by Mr. H., as he wished to look at some peones who were employed in clearing up new land from the small bushes with which it is here covered, in order to make grazing-ground of it; for, as soon as the sun's rays can reach the soil, a fine grass springs up spontaneously. After leaving the cleared part of the hill, we somehow missed the little path, and Mr. Haldane was obliged to dismount and ferret out as good a one as possible, frequently using his machete to cut down the bushes that obstructed our way.

This estate, under its present manager, promises to be the very first in the country. It is of immense extent, and includes every variety of soil and climate suitable for the staple productions of New Grenada; on a fine slope near the house are several hundreds of plants of the coffee-tree, in the most healthy condition. The top of the ridge here produces potatoes, carrots, fine strawberries, and every other fruit and vegetable found in temperate climes. At this time there are about two or three hundred acres of this upland entirely cleared, and producing the richest

pasturage for sheep and cattle. Mr. Haldane is a most indefatigable man, attending to every operation himself; and, by some means or other, he has managed to drill into tolerably good order about thirty or forty Indian labourers, who are much afraid of exciting his displeasure, as he is very prompt and decisive with them. At Guaduas I was told that he was too much so, being very passionate. But I defy any active foreigner, who may have dealings with so sluggish and ignorant a people, to be able on every occasion to keep his temper under; and as to the respectable individual in question, I never saw anything in his conduct to free from imputation the behaviour of those persons, engaged in one of the most dastardly and murderous attempts upon his life and property, the particulars of which I am about to relate, not only as made known to me by Mr. Haldane himself, but as adduced from the evidence of the guilty perpetrators themselves. Much less, too, will these stubborn facts exculpate his own countryman, who, with the power to sift the matter to the bottom, and, most especially, to take measures to place the lonely, isolated family at Palmar secure at least from a second attack of the liberated ruffians, has given but little attention to the subject.

The particulars are as follows: Mr. Haldane said that towards sunset of ——(I forget the date,) but in 1835 or 6, he was standing in the yard in front of his house, when a suspicious-looking Indian, passing along the road and observing Mr. H., stopped to inquire if he did not wish to purchase some cattle. Upon Mr. H.'s replying in the negative, but advising him to take them to Guaduas, the fellow turned away, when a singularly good chance enabled Mr. H. to perceive the butt-end of a musket protruding from beneath his long ruana. Before, however, he could be seized or even interrogated as to his inten-

tions, he had disappeared in the woods close to the very door. Mr. Haldane, suspecting something wrong, instantly summoned he Scotch overseer already mentioned, and telling Mrs. Haldane not to be alarmed, at the same time acquainting her with his suspicions, commenced the business of loading all the arms he luckily had in the house; which consisted of two double-barrelled fowling-pieces, one rifle, one musket, and two or three pairs of pistols; besides, there were a number of machetes and lances. These preparations, hastily as they were made, had scarcely been completed, when a party of six or seven men were discovered moving up the road from the brow of the wooded hill, which was barely half musket shot from the house. They were armed with guns and machetes, and made a full display of their strength. Not at all daunted by the appearance of this formidable array, Mr. H. gave instructions to Mrs. Haldane to spread mattresses on the floor, and to place herself and children upon them, out of reach of their balls. This lady told me herself that she believed a merciful Providence so strengthened her at the time as to enable her to banish from her mind all sense of personal fear; and that she busied herself, during the whole of the fearful conflict that ensued, in handing up the arms, or in preparing coffee to keep up the hearts of the two lonely beings who stood between the yelling bloodhounds without and the destruction of all she held dear on earth. God, in mercy, help us! But a man needs a wife possessed of such strength of nerve to venture into a land like this! Not a soul was there about the place upon whose assistance they could call; and even had any of the peones been near, the sight of the wretches without, who could be distinctly seen entering the house of his own overseer, a half-breed whom Mr. Haldane had ever most kindly treated, and in whom he had been

accustomed to place the utmost confidence, would have led him to reject their aid, even had it been offered.

My friend's house was a small one, of a single story, and octagonally shaped, having a small wing in addition, built of the clay of the country; this, luckily, had stout outside shutters. A slight fence of palm planks ran along in front about three yards from the house. In the rear were numerous outbuildings, the only cause of dread to Mr. Haldane; as, should the party have divided and gained the rear, all would have been lost. The main road ran directly in front of the house, where, in its descent towards Guaduas, and scarcely a short gunshot off, it became lost to the sight, down the steep and thickly wooded side of the mountain. Above the house, also, at about the same distance, the road entered the thick dark forest; and a broad field, lying directly in front on the other side of the way, was all the cleared ground in the immediate neighbourhood of the dwelling. The traitorous overseer's house was about a stone's throw off, situated in the centre of a little cleared enclosure between Mr. H.'s and the brow of the mountain. It was from this house that the party first commenced firing in the direction of Mr. Haldane's; thinking, probably, by that means to frighten the inmates out of it, when they might be shot singly, and the property plundered at their leisure. But they found they had no such foolish general to deal with. The only entrance to the house in use was at the back of the wing I have described; and there the Scotch overseer was stationed, to guard against any surprise by outflanking, and to reload the arms, while Mr. Haldane himself passed to the outer corner of the wing, where, keeping under comparative shelter, he had a full view of the dim forms now crowded together on the road.

It was here, then, that the conflict, fraught with such deep import to the family of my friend, and carried on at such fearful odds, commenced. No succour was near him. He was alone in the midst of black forests, and surrounded by savages thirsting for his blood and that of his whole family. Yet did a stout heart and sinewy arm bear him safely through that night of horrors!

A shot or two had the effect of driving the assailants back down the hill, and for a moment all was silent. Upon this Mr. H. concluded, that, finding him well armed and aware of their intentions, they had fled; but alas! he was, too soon, undeceived by the whistling of a shot which came directly from the cleared field in front, close to where he stood, lodging itself in the wall. He thereupon hastily retreated into the house, and opening one of the little windows in front, plainly marked their new position, which, for them, was happily chosen. It was behind the tall stump of what had been an enormously large tree, admirably calculated for such a purpose, and which could have protected ten men from any danger in front. Mr. Haldane showed me several places in it where his balls had lodged that night.

They had gained this shelter unseen by Mr. Haldane, favoured by the partial darkness, and by creeping along the hill. They had sense enough, however, to leave two of their party on the old ground; but its exposed situation to the close aiming of my friend soon drove these also to the safer post in front. Once convinced that the whole party was there, and all fear of an attack on his rear removed, Mr. Haldane and his man, although a sharp look-out was still kept up in that quarter, had a fair field for action. Shot after shot now told against that venerable stump, which, being long since stripped of its bark, and the wood whitened by exposure to the sun and rain,

stood clearly out in the darkness, and greatly aided in showing up any part of the dusky figures beyond. Ever and anon, as a head or hand became visible, it was immediately aimed at by the party in the house; while they, on the other hand, had literally shattered every shutter, as well as a great portion of the walls of the house, with musket balls. The fight had thus continued for about three hours, the darkness and the well-chosen position of the enemy rendering it impossible to take anything like sure aim, when at last a well-told shot upon one of the party of desperadoes, who uttered the most terrific howlings, seemed to have determined the ruffians to retreat. This they effected by falling back on the wood, and probably thus descending the mountain to their respective homes. An unwearied watch was kept up in the house during the whole night, and Mr. Haldane stated that not even the conflict itself was attended with any of the horrors which, to a painful extent, prevailed throughout those gloomy after-hours; for neither knowing when they might return, and in what numbers, and having about him not a single person, except the overseer, on whom to rely to convey the tidings to Guaduas, the night was passed by my friend as may be better imagined than described. However, none of the wretches reappeared.

In the morning word was sent and succour came. The house of the villanous overseer was found tenantless, he and all his family having decamped. Behind the old stump much blood was sprinkled, which was tracked to the wood; but whether the person had been mortally wounded or not, has never transpired. The overseer and one or two others were shortly after apprehended; but, although their guilt was clearly proved, they escaped with the lenient penalty of a few months' imprisonment! and, as Mr. Haldane justly remarked to me, they

are now living in his very neighbourhood, in all probability but awaiting some more favourable opportunity to put their hellish plans into execution at a future day. It appeared, on the trial of these wretches, that Mr. Haldane had previously many tenants on his lands, whom he allowed to erect houses, and cultivate for their own use a certain portion, provided they, in return, cleared a fixed quantity of land for the owner (but, since the affray here related, Mr. Haldane has broken up all these settlements); and that the people, instead of confining their cattle within proper limits, allowed hogs, &c., to run wild, to the great damage of the different crops; upon which Mr. Haldane, having in vain remonstrated with them from time to time, at last told them that, unless the practice was given up forthwith, he would shoot the first hog he saw at large, which he did. This act drew down their vengeance upon him, and first led to the infamous conspiracy, the intention of which was the murder of the whole family, and then plundering the house; the dead bodies were to be piled together amid surrounding combustibles, and burnt, thus hoping to bury all traces of their guilt under the ruins left behind. A full and certified copy of these facts was duly forwarded to the British minister at Bogotá; but who took but few steps in the matter to secure the life and property of as worthy a man and subject of the British empire as ever left his native land.

Mr. Haldane expresses no great fears for his safety, and thinks he now has around him some peones on whom he can depend; at least in their not taking part with his enemies, and for their bringing him the earliest information respecting any hostile movements that may be in progress. He always goes well armed, and is, in all, as brave hearted and gallant a gentleman as old Caledonia might desire a son of hers to be. He regretted much that, on the

night of the assault, there had not been one more to assist him, as then they could, without difficulty, have turned the enemies' flank, and possibly they might not have gotten off so easily.

The estate takes its name from the multitude of fine palm-trees upon it, some of which must be at least one hundred feet high. One of them, situated near the house, I saw on a certain morning, during a very high wind, fall to the earth with a tremendous crash.

The forests abound with fine deer and wild turkeys, and in any more civilized country an estate like that of Palmar would be equally invaluable for its productions, as pleasant in affording a terrestrial paradise for a habitation.

Mr. Haldane has formed a company, principally of foreigners with capital, who intend following the breeding of cattle and the extensive cultivation of sugar, &c., on the estate. He has also set on foot the establishment of a regular relay of mules between Honda and Bogotá, for the transportation of merchandise, to be managed by trusty overseers and drivers; so that foreign merchants especially may be sure of a safer and speedier transportation than is, at present, to be obtained; there being now no end to the vexatious delays and exactions practised upon the uninitiated by these native muleteers. It is very common for one of them to engage your freight at Honda, or in the capital, with barely half the number of mules necessary for its direct conveyance, when he will set off with probably the one half, deposite it at a short advance upon the road, and then returning, take the other, and thus secure the freightage of the whole, by keeping the goods twice the requisite length of time on the road.

Fine mines, no doubt, of different kinds, will soon be worked on the estate. Emeralds have been found near Villeta, upon a branch of the very ridge on which Mr. Haldane's house is situated. They are,

however, much inferior to those of Mousa, being much lighter coloured and less brilliant.

In conversation with Mr. H. I spoke of the great disadvantage he must necessarily labour under here, of bringing up young females in a place where education was at so low an ebb. Upon which he informed me that it was his intention to procure an English governess so soon as his new house should be completed.

Mr. Haldane takes a most lively interest in the prosperity of Guaduas, and is at the head of an association there, the object of which is to encourage their two great branches of industry—the making of sugar and straw hats.

What seems most to trouble him was that the market-day always being the Sabbath, he is, of a necessity, obliged to do business on that day, while his strict religious principles cause him to look upon the custom as a most serious and demoralizing evil. Once he actually applied to the bishop, begging him to alter the day to any one of the other six! In truth, he might just as well have required of his mitred highness to renounce popery at once, and so take the shortest way to establish the supremacy of the laws of God!

I now took my leave of this excellent family, trusting long to remember with gratitude the kind treatment I there experienced.

We returned to Bogotá after an absence of nearly three weeks, stopping by the way at Cuni, the estate of Mr. Willis, an Englishman, lately a merchant in the capital, and married to a sister-in-law of President Santander. It is the intention of Mr. Willis to cultivate the sugarcane extensively; but the site of Cuni is not to be compared with that of Palmar. We dined with Mr. Triffrey, a young Englishman, his overseer, a very intelligent and agreeable person, Mr. Willis being absent.

We found the ascent to the Acerradero very bad, owing to a recent shower; but nearly the whole distance across the plain was crossed on horseback by the bright light of the moon, and we reached home at a little past ten o'clock the same evening.

March 17th. Colonel Biddle, of Philadelphia, brother to the celebrated banker of that name, arrived here at this time with his secretary, direct from the survey of the Isthmus of Panama, with a view to the practicability of uniting the two seas by a canal or railroad. Colonel Biddle brought a complete plan of his intended route, and reported the thing as being, in every respect, safe and practicable; arrangements were immediately made for laying the question before the chambers at that time in session. The mission was at first supposed to have been specially from the government of the United States; but was afterward perfectly understood to have proceeded from a company of individuals formed in Philadelphia, and possessed of ample means for the prosecution and completion of so vast an undertaking. Colonel Biddle had a most efficient aid in the person of one of the members of the senate for the Province of Panama, Señor Obaldia, a most talented man and fluent speaker, and who spoke the English also with great ease.

Some time previous to this, it seems, a certain Baron Thiery had obtained a patent from the government of New Grenada for purposes similar to those now about to be proposed by Colonel Biddle; but, as the people of Panama had never heard or seen from this baron since his obtaining the grant, and the time allowed him for the commencement of the work being nearly expired, they had given up all hope from that quarter, and had put down the baron as a second Elbers, who, should he even commence the work, would lack both the means and energy necessary for the accomplishment of so

great an undertaking; by which means the great advantages that would accrue to the country from the work, properly carried through and rapidly completed, would, to all intents and purposes be lost for half a century to come; just enough of the work, probably, being executed to secure the patent, as Elbers did with his steam navigation of the river Magdalena. The proposals, therefore, of Colonel Biddle, backed as they were by well-authenticated documents of the ability of the company to carry through the work when once commenced, produced the most joyful sensation among the inhabitants of the Isthmus, while their representatives in Congress were invested with the fullest powers and instructions for carrying these propositions through by every possible means, ensuring as they did the opening up of a mine of wealth, not only to their own province, but to the country at large. The vast advantages to be derived by the whole mercantile world, as well as the millions flowing into the treasury of New Grenada, and the great rise in the value of lands in all that region thereby produced, requires scarcely any comment of mine here.

The only question has ever been, Is the thing practicable? Now that its practicability had been most fully and clearly demonstrated, and a capital of many millions was ready to put to a test this practicability, *not* a doubt ever lingered in the breast of a single intelligent citizen of Panama but that government would accede with scarcely a debate on the question. For years, since their emancipation from the yoke of Spain, had they been doomed to sit by and witness the sight of the great door to the treasures of two mighty seas only barred against them by reason of the poverty of their nation and the imbecility of their rulers; but now all this was overcome by the head, hands, and means of others! All would be completed without costing

them even a single thought, while they would merely sit by and receive a rent, exceeding, no doubt, the whole of the present state revenue. A city would arise on the present isolated site of Panama not surpassed by any in the commercial world. But they had yet to be taught a severe lesson from the "interior rule," which, I engage, will not be either soon or lightly forgotten by the inhabitants of the Isthmus.

Mr. Biddle and his secretary were inmates of the American minister's house, General M'Afee, who promised to forward the undertaking as much as lay in his power. But it would have been much better for the cause of Mr. Biddle had the minister attempted nothing in the matter. For the general, although an honest and upright man, with manners both pleasing and conciliatory, knows little or nothing of the duties connected with a diplomatic agent, or of business generally.* He has now resided four years in the country, and is as yet acquainted with scarcely fifty words of the language, nor could he turn one single point in the dark and faithless character of this government to his own advantage. Mistaking entirely the character of the people, their agents, by dint of smooth promises and a little well-timed flattery, have succeeded in setting aside almost every just claim which the United States have against the republic, or treaties desirable to have, and then turn round and openly laugh at the simplicity of the "old Kentucky farmer," as they are pleased to term him. And thus it will ever be as long as governments choose to send abroad, as representatives of their commercial and other interests, men whose want of acquaintance with the general routine of commercial affairs, and whose habits of life, as well as education, have kept them completely in the dark respecting the great

* General Sempler is now Charge d'Affaires at Bogota.

levers necessary to the putting in proper motion the subtle and complex machinery of every individual court and state throughout the world.

If it follow, as a matter of course, that each strong political partisan of a party in power must at any rate be pensioned off, why not keep the incompetent in places at home, and substitute others more capable for places abroad, rather than cause the defects of a friend to stand out in such bold relief!

As soon as the bill went before the chambers, it became apparent that there was a counter-current setting down from some quarter then unknown. The opposition party, composed principally of members from the upper districts, fired off their first gun by bringing up the old wretched Spanish policy; "the fewer communications from the coast the better; that, '*quien sabe*,' that, should this project of a road and canal across the Isthmus be once carried through, it might present a great temptation to other nations more powerful than themselves to take possession of the country; and that no one nation was to be more dreaded than their republican brethren of the United States, who seemed to be still as greedy after new territories as if those they already possessed were not sufficiently extensive; that, although this was an undertaking by private individuals, yet, '*quien sabe*,' how far the British and other European governments may look upon it as such; that, at best, it was but a wretched policy to grant exclusive privileges, like the one in question, to a band of foreigners," &c. &c.

But the most laughable feature in the case was, that Colonel Biddle & Co. included in their demand so many hundred acres of the land lying in the immediate route of the intended road, and "*that* land being certainly worth several dollars per acre, such transfer of it and the wealth of the country would

be but virtual robbery, and the establishing of a foreign power within their own domains.

Now you may purchase this same land, even to the extent of tens of thousands of acres, at about four reals each! It was only to be worth the sum mentioned by the sapient member after some millions of dollars of foreign capital had been expended thereon! In reply to a remark made by a member present, "that, as probably a number of foreign labourers would be employed by the company, they might easily set a rebellion on foot," Mr. Obaldia very tartly answered, "No, Sir, not so! but of this be assured, that if the policy of the government still continue to war against the best interests of her maritime citizens, and reject, or render null and void the numberless petitions which have flooded this house from the same quarter ever since the hour we became a nation, revolution will most assuredly follow; but not from the source whence my keen-sighted compeer seems to look for it: no! but from the very citizens of those neglected regions themselves will it come, and I myself will be the very first to sound the 'onset.'"

Others were opposed to the passing of the bill, because they considered the right of Baron Thiery as not yet forfeited; but when each and every one of the foregoing arguments had been swept from the field of contest by the able pleadings and impassioned eloquence of Obaldia and his coadjutors, the opposition grew stronger than ever, and under quite a different form. This was grounded on the right of another company, who laid claim to a preference over Biddle & Co., in that they proposed to accept the privilege for a less number of years, with less land, and to allow a larger rent to the government. This new company, moreover, was styled "*native*," with how just a claim to the appellation the sequel will show.

The first great agitator of this speculating scheme was one M'Dowal, a Scotchman by birth, but married to a native woman, which circumstance of itself entitles a man to citizenship. He owned a share in the salt-works, and was struggling along in the world, as was also a Mr. Davidson, an Irishman, a partner in the same salt concern, and a man notorious throughout all New Grenada for his scheming and plotting habits. This hopeful pair enlisted in their train a Señor Morales, also of the salt company, a great fanatic, and who kept up a very showy exterior, but possessed of no solid disposable means. The company's only means were held by Señor Montoya principally, while Señor R. Santa Maria and one or two others had some wealth; but the very extent of the whole company's disposable means could not exceed 500,000 dollars, when millions would be required before one penny of interest could be paid the shareholders. The object of this singular proposition was understood by Mr. Biddle and his friends at a single glance. It was, in reality, to oblige him either to buy off this new company's right, or admit them to take shares. He chose the latter, after finding that otherwise his bill must give way to theirs.

There is a story of a poor Irishman, who, accepting the wager of a guinea that he could not dine with a certain rich miser, won it by calling just at the dinner hour, and representing that he could save old "Hard Gripes" a thousand pounds, and would inform him in what manner after dinner. The bait took, and the Irishman received an invitation to dine; and, when the meal was over, the miser begged to be made acquainted with his guest's plan for saving the thousand pounds, to which he received the following reply: "Sir, you have a daughter to whom you intend giving a dowry of ten thousand pounds. Now I, your honour's most humble servant, will take the lady with but nine thousand, and you

may keep the other yourself." Than this no case could more resemble the "native" company's proposals, in opposition to those of Colonel Biddle; and yet, instead of having them kicked out, as was the Irishman and his offer, they would, without a doubt, have been accepted, but for the bribe of the few shares; while, at the same time, the blockheads could not perceive how far their own knavery was overshooting itself, in the case of the amount of their shares being called for, when much of the money would have to be hired, and, lying so long without interest, would of itself beggar them. Nor would it be possible to sell such stock to any advantageous account for many years. Neither would the native part of the company have the least control in the matter, as two-thirds of the stock would still be held in the United States. From these, besides, Colonel Biddle drew a sum of 5000 dollars as his proportion of expenses incurred in the survey. Santander behaved throughout the whole transaction in the most unfriendly manner to Colonel Biddle, at one time holding out hopes of success which he never dreamed of being realized, and at another withdrawing altogether from the question in the most cavalierlike manner; his dignity being once mightily offended because Colonel Biddle wrote to him a little out of form. The chambers were completely at his nod, and he had but to use a very small part of his influence to verify his own expressed wishes on the subject; but the truth was, Santander, at that time, was anything but a friend to the interests of the United States, and from no other cause than, simply, that of wounded vanity. It happened that, when he was recalled from exile to fill the presidential chair on the deposition of the unfortunate Bolivar, General Jackson, then President of the United States, did not order a man-of-war from Florida to New York to convey him to New Grenada, but told his excellency that such a one was at his service,

provided he could travel to Florida and embark there. This, however, was very wrong in one sense in President Jackson, and yet could not have been meant at all as an insult to a man like Santander, who had been expatriated for liberal principles, approved as these were by the general voice of his nation recalling him to fill the highest station in its gift. The vessel of war should have been either ordered to the place where the exile was, or not have been offered at all. Yet a noble soul would not, for such paltry considerations, have sacrificed the good of a whole people. Still true it is, that herein is the key to much which has puzzled ministers in the United States in regard to the strange and unnatural disposition which has ever been manifested toward their country during the whole period of Santander's rule; and it was only after the late affair with England, concerning their consul, Russell, of Panama, that these selfish feelings underwent the slightest change.

The character of Santander has been but imperfectly understood in the United States. To strong natural talent, a deep and matured understanding, and promptness of execution (a characteristic so generally deficient among his nation), he unites a thorough knowledge, gained by close study, of the characters of those around him; and by a nice and judicious system of political management, he contrives to govern one of the most unruly and faithless people under the sun as easily as if they were so many puppets. His administration I believe to have been the very best for this people, and carried through with as few exceptions, as one may expect to find in such a government: but his character as a man is very far from being so amiable as was represented during his exile in the United States and in Europe. Possessed of great wealth, he is penurious to a cuartillo; and most bitter in his feelings

of revenge against any who may thwart his plans, retaining the recollection of the smallest affront or injury, while those of gratitude for acts of kindness received perish in the moment of their completion. He suffers the most violent prejudices to take possession of his mind, scarcely giving the subjects which may have excited them a single thought; and if he be afterward convinced that they are truly such, his vanity prevents him acknowledging his error. He is alternately either very talkative or very taciturn, even to the breach of good manners. He would wander up and down a room amid a numerous assembly, staring over the heads of ladies and gentlemen, looking at a picture, and ask, in an impatient tone, whether supper was yet ready!

Colonel Biddle was thus needlessly detained until June the 30th, when he was escorted out of town by a large party, in one of the *three carriages* owned in the place, to the country-house of Señor Morales of the "*native company*," where a grand entertainment was prepared. All present were fain to fawn upon and crouch before the man who had repeatedly told them to their teeth of their swindling and disgraceful conduct. The last time that high words had passed was while in company with the renegade Scotchman M'Dowal, Davison, Morales, and one or two others, upon the Altesano, at which time they told him that the 5000 dollars, their share of the expenses incurred in the survey, &c., was all ready in *macaquina* (it consisted of misshapen bits of alloyed silver, the national currency). "Gentlemen," said Mr. B., "we have nearly finished our long and unpleasant business; I pray you, do not let me part with you under the same impressions as when first we became acquainted; pay me in *Christian coin*; or, if you will insist upon my carrying with me such adulterated trash as this to Carthagena, be so good as to furnish the necessary number of jackasses for its transportation." It was finally paid in gold.

CHAPTER VII.

Disturbances with Great Britain.—Cruel Treatment of two Officers on Columbian Halfpay.—Col. Joachim Acosta.—Description of a Danta.—Farewell Party.—Concealed Treasures.—Youth of Begotá.—Departure from the Capital.—Arrival at Honda.—Description of the Town.—Difficulty in procuring Means of Conveyance.—Señor Aguadelo.—Mr. Triffrey.—Señor La Guardia.—Visit his Hacienda.—Leave Honda.—Old Troubles of Travel renewed.—Reach Mompox.—Barranca.—Road to Carthagena.

In the beginning of December, 1836, I came to the conclusion of setting out for Carthagena about the first of the new year; but was induced to postpone my departure nearly a month later, to avail myself of the companionship of Doctor Goudot, who was going on a journey to his native country, France, by way of the United States.

In the mean time rumour of disturbances with Great Britain reached Bogotá; and, knowing well the natural propensities of the mob here, foreign residents became much alarmed, particularly the English; some of whom, then men of business, prepared to make over their property to French or American citizens, while the gathering of the storm was watched with gloomy and intense anxiety by all.

The incidents which gave rise to so serious a misunderstanding between the two countries were simply these: a certain Mr. Russell, British consul for Panama, had a grudge toward a citizen of the place. This he chose to repay by assaulting him with a sword as he passed along the public street in company with a female. The consul was pouring out the lowest abuse, when, the police interfering,

an alcalde struck Russell a violent blow with his cane, laying open the temporal artery, and otherwise severely maltreating him. This abuse took place after the consul had been disarmed, and rendered, of course, utterly incompetent to protect himself. Russell was imprisoned, and the office, containing the various documents of the consulate, being shut up, the keys were handed over to the officer commanding the port. A statement of these facts being duly forwarded to the proper authorities, and no doubt highly coloured by both Russell and the minister at Bogotá, another consul was despatched forthwith, carrying with him instructions to the government of New Grenada to release Russell at once, paying him as a compensation for the abuse £1000; also, that the alcalde who had struck the blow should be forthwith imprisoned, he having been allowed to go at large ever since the transaction had occurred. These requests, it seemed, all passed unheeded; and to render the case still more desperate, the newly appointed consul would not receive the keys of the closed consulate at the hand of any one but the former possessor, and then only provided he was not a prisoner. And thus matters stood.

The alcalde was guilty of a most gross breach of duty as well as of the laws; and the conduct of the authorities of Panama in allowing this alcalde to go unpunished, and taking violent possession of the office and seals of the consulate, were facts in themselves full grievous to be borne by any nation possessing the means of redress; and there is not a particle of doubt, but that a little show of power is, occasionally, necessary to keep in proper check such piratical and inflated petty states as are most of these South American republics. Yet it was well known by foreigners in Bogotá, that the whole matter might have been settled in a manner satisfactory to Great Britain without its

having gone to such lengths as it did, but for the swaggering bullyism and undue haste of the British minister at the capital. He is a man who, I am sorry to say, has scarcely a single friend among his countrymen in the place. By the whole body of natives he is most cordially hated, and they take no pains to conceal it; nor can it be wondered at, considering the abuse he is ever heaping upon them, even in their very teeth. Possessed of a violent temper, and actuated by principles of the very highest tory stamp, his conduct is highly ridiculous, and deserving to be treated with contempt. Very truly did a most worthy English merchant once observe to me, on the occasion of the disturbance, that "they (meaning the English government) should have kept him where he was, secretary to the legation at Constantinople, a place much more suited to his despotic ideas." Mr. Adams,* his present secretary, it is said, is to succeed him shortly, a man of quite different feelings and principles, and esteemed by both foreigner and native.

It is well known in what a miserable state of dependence on the executive of New Grenada, are the various courts of justice, and nothing could have been more easy than for General Santander to have obliged the judge who sentenced Russell to withdraw his judgment, by a confession of error, &c. in the case. Such a course was really in progress when the minister, the moment he received the despatches of his government by a special messenger sent from the coast, rushed furiously before the council of the nation, demanding an immediate answer, or bidding them dread the consequences of calling down upon their heads the whole power of the British crown.

This sudden and violent announcement of the de-

* Mr. Adams now fills that office.

clared purposes and demands of the English government, not only defeated the policy of Santander as regarded his obliging the judge to unsay his verdict, but also raised up feelings of indignation in his own bosom, while the same took possession of every member of the community.

Thus matters were bandied about; the government requiring a certain number of days to give an answer, which they at last did by declaring they would neither liberate Russell nor pay the £1000 damages. With this reply the messenger departed.

Now great preparations were seemingly made for defence on the part of the government, and nothing was heard in the streets but bombast and oaths, of how they would thrash John Bull, &c. Yet the city remained perfectly well disposed toward foreigners up to the day I left. The minister, I understood, had been once jostled off the Altesano; but nothing more occurred. The American and French ministers had made a formal requisition to the government, that in case of any riot in the capital, they should be held strictly responsible for any outrages committed against the persons or property of the citizens of their respective countries; and, if necessary, to station guards at their place of general rendezvous as a matter of safety.

Every one is already acquainted with the way in which this affair was wound up. The government of New Grenada acceded to every request, as it stood in its original form. No one, indeed, ever believed that Santander meant to risk the levelling of his towns and the total blockade of the coast, for the nonpayment of a paltry thousand pounds, and the imprisonment of a blackguard alcalde.

Mr. Russell, the cause of all this disturbance, had resided a long time in the country, and is well known in Mompox, Antioquia, and other parts of it as a low, worthless, and dissipated person, of no standing

whatever; and as the natives observed, with a good deal of truth too, "a subject of the empire, and a consul to boot, whose honour, bruises and all, the British valued at the low rate of £1000, could not have been a person of much standing or consequence." What the boasted means of defence of the country were, will be shown more at length in the sequel.

Santander and his council were guilty of one act of the grossest meanness, as connected with this affair. This was their giving notice to two veteran English soldiers residing on halfpay in the capital, to come forward and *swear that they were then ready and willing* to march against their brethren in defence of New Grenada! And this act will appear more base when I say that one of these officers, Colonel Brand, had fought for them during nearly all of their protracted struggles for independence, and had ever proved himself the "bravest of the brave," and had lost his hearing entirely from a cold caught by sleeping encamped on the snow! The other, the brave Colonel M'Intosh, had but the use of one hand, having also been deprived of it while in the Columbian service! Why, the martial laws of the severest region in Europe would have exempted an old lame veteran from acting in defence of the capital itself, even if attacked by utter aliens to his creed and nation, not to mention ordering him to the frontier to war against his own countrymen!

The brave fellows, after consulting with their countrymen, concluded to go forward and report themselves ready; and then, should the push come in sober earnest, they could fly off at last, as the demand was apparently made in the hope that it would not be complied with, and thus these two superannuated officers have been deprived of their paltry halfpay, which constituted their sole support.

9th. Dined at the house of Colonel Joachim

Acosta, where I spent a very pleasant day and evening.

The house is in the square of Don Francisco, opposite to the church of that name. The American minister, and Mr. and Mrs. Ellingsworth, were all who were present at the party. The colonel married an English lady while in the States, a Miss Kemble. Mrs. Acosta is pretty and very accomplished. They have but one child, a most lovely little girl, from three to four years of age.

The apartments of this domicile are calculated to bring back to the heart thoughts of home comfort, so long foregone. Neither the house nor the rooms are very large, but everything is neatly and tastefully arranged. The colonel has a small library of well-selected books, richly bound, and a cabinet of minerals; he himself possessing some knowledge of botany, mineralogy, and astronomy. In his study there was a very fine painting by Vasquez of Bogotá, also two by Titian. In the evening Mrs. Acosta sang several pieces both in Italian, French, and English, with a voice well cultivated and of considerable compass. We had, also, a fine peep at the planet Jupiter through a most excellent telescope.

11th. Walking along the Alameda this morning, I saw ice full half an inch thick, which a boy carried in his hand.

20th. I went in company with Mr. Gooding and another friend to see a danta, which had been sent as a present to General Santander, and kept in one of the yards of the Capuchin convent.

On the way thither Mr. G. informed us how extremely ferocious this animal was, having, he said, but a few days since attacked a Mr. Gomez, from Antioquia, who went to see it, and broken two of his ribs, as well as a friar, who was much injured. He thought that it would consequently be best for

us to approach rather guardedly. Arriving at the first court in the rear of the convent, we found the door fastened, and not a soul to be seen about the premises. As the wall was not over five feet high we scrambled over it, and entered a second yard, but could see no danta. The door to a third and much larger one, with a high wall around it, stood open, and this we cautiously entered. It was covered with a short rich grass, and there were a few small fruit-trees, but we could see nothing of the animal, having scrutinized every corner from our concealment in the doorway. Mr. Gooding now ventured forward to the other end of the yard, which was about 100 yards in length, when he perceived the danta lying in a trench, which had concealed him hitherto from our view, and so tame did it appear, scarcely deigning to notice his approach, that Mr. Gooding ventured to within a couple of yards of its head, and made gestures for it to get up, when, on a sudden, the clumsy-looking animal was on his feet, and making a spring at Mr. G., threw him with great violence down on his face, and before he recovered from his prostrate position, struck him a second time. This was all the work of a moment. Neither of us had arms, and there was not a single club or loose brick within our reach; but seeing the fearful situation of our friend, we were dashing forward to his rescue at all hazards, when, fortunately for us all, as our united destruction would have been an easy matter to so powerful an adversary, his keeper appeared at the gateway, and as soon as the animal heard his well-known voice calling him to his food, he immediately left us. We all afterward went up and examined it while eating his meal, which consisted of a mixture of bran, grain, and water; but we took especial care to keep at a respectable distance behind the keeper. Poor Gooding was obliged to have his horse sent for to carry him home, his arm and leg being much

bruised, and his hat and coat considerably the worse for the encounter; yet none of his hurts confined him more than one day to the house. The keeper said that the danta must only have struck in sport, as a single one of his blows given in good earnest would break any bone in the human body; and that the animal was rendered more ferocious than usual by such a number of people visiting and tormenting him. This danta was of a dingy, black colour, about three and a half feet high, weighing probably about 800 pounds. In shape it was something like the hog, but more straight in the hind quarters, with very short hair like the deer. A sharp bone situated in the snout is this animal's chief weapon of attack. There was a cut in the arm of Mr. G.'s coat evidently made by this. It is a great pity that, heretofore, all attempts to carry one to the United States have been unsuccessful; but I feel assured the thing could be accomplished by taking a cub of the white Socorro breed, which is a much hardier race.

27th. A supper-party was given on my account by my ever-kind and attached friend, Mr. Gooding, at his house in the St. Rosario, directly opposite the college entrance. A considerable number of both English and American acquaintances were there, and the evening passed away most delightfully. Mr. G. had only removed to this new situation a few months before, having resided previously in the Calle Real. The house is large and very convenient, with a neat little shrubbery in the inner court. What I would particularly remark about this habitation is, that from the bottom to the top of almost every room in it, lobbies and all, there had been openings, of either old or recent date, made in the walls for the purpose of searching for treasures, supposed to have been hid there some time during the commencement of the revolution. I observed that,

in the parlour, some of the bricks which composed the bottom of the window recess, had been lately removed, as was very evident from the freshness of the plastering. The story of the hidden treasure is as follows: A certain wealthy individual, who owned the property and resided on it at the time, noted for his strong attachment to the Spanish crown, became alarmed at the rapid spread of revolutionary principles, and having first drawn out a sum of some two or three hundred thousand dollars in gold from the mint wherein it was deposited determined to decamp. Before, however, he could decide on his plan of escape, the Patriots were upon the city, and he had but bare time to get off under the disguise of a friar, a sworn friend of his, who procured him the habit. In this guise he made to the coast, and finally reached Jamaica, where he was seized with a fever, and died a few days after his arrival. That this man owned much wealth, and that he drew a certain heavy sum in gold out of the mint as aforesaid, and that this gold was not carried from the country by him, are well-authenticated facts; but whether the old system of wall-burying was resorted to, or whether the friar, who provided him the means of escape by lending him his own cassock, was acquainted with the secret of the treasure as well as the escape, and had made use of his knowledge as nine out of ten would probably have done under similar circumstances, is a question not so readily solved. The house certainly possesses great conveniences for the concealment of treasures, as, under the lobby alone, is a heavy foundation of stone, which forms a wall of about eight feet high as you descend to the first courtyard. If people are so sure that the treasure lies *somewhere* about the premises, why not form a company, purchase the house, and pull it down systematically?

But almost every old house in Bogotá is said

either to have had treasures taken out, or to have them remaining still in their walls, and servants and ignorant people are continually dreaming of having spots pointed out to them where they are to be found. Should these spots ever occur to them as being in the immediate neighbourhood of the back yards, kitchens, or outhouses, then commences a regular drilling into bricks and mortar, and there is no end to the hubbub they create.

To-day I witnessed, for the first time since my residence in Bogotá, a faint attempt at some playful exercise ventured upon by two or three little boys. It is a singular fact, certainly, that the children here indulge in none of those active and healthful sports and games which are remembered with such feelings of delight by individuals of other countries, as they look back through the long, dim vista of years upon their school-days, that happy, joyous period when head, heart, and hands are so truly united in following up the dizzy dance of childish glee and frolic; and when the embryo hero and statesman perhaps received their first impulses from the mimic capture of a snow-tower, or the planning out of some truant holyday. Nothing either in the shape of ball, kite, hoop, or marbles, have I ever witnessed here. The very step and gait of a little Bogotano have more the resemblance of premature old age than that of the elasticity of boyhood. You may see him stretching out his lazy limbs by the door of the house, either caressing one of their nasty, insignificant curs, or gazing listlessly forth upon what is passing in the street. As with the boys, so is it with the girls. No dolls amuse their childish hours, nor awaken in their young minds those habits and sympathies which are calculated perhaps to prepare them for the more sober duties of matured years; for their skill is never tasked to plan out, and their little hands never employed in making the tiny garments in which to

array these favourite playthings of the girlish days of our own fair countrywomen. Among the more wealthy families are sometimes to be found collections of rare toys, it is true; but in the place where they are first deposited, there they generally remain; while neither their properties, nor the things they are intended to represent, become any great matter of speculation to these sluggish youths, who no doubt connect them somehow in their own wise minds with others of a religious kind, too sacred to be handled roughly or familiarly.

On the morning of the 29th January I left Bogotá, after a residence there of eleven months. Doctor G. and his "chere amie," a plump little personage of the Indian cast of complexion, had proceeded on their journey the day previous, but were to join me at Honda. It was the intention of the doctor to show his "dulcinea" something of "la belle France" before their return, which was to be some time during the ensuing autumn.

I took with me, also, the parents of the child whose death and burial here I have mentioned in a foregoing chapter. Our baggage was forced into as compact a form as possible, and, among other things, I carried with me a large box of paintings, without frames, and rolled up together with bayeta cloth on a wooden cylinder, and thus placed in a strong box, which was borne by a stout mule. I was accompanied as far as Cuatras Esquinas by most of those who formed the party convened at supper on the previous night. Here we breakfasted and took leave of each other.

The separation was truly a heavy one with many of us. It seemed as if something stronger than the mere acquaintanceship of a few short months had taken hold upon the affections. Yes! and all will feel it so who may ever visit the shut-out and dreary capital of New Grenada. The tiè of language

alone exercises no small influence over us; and when to this are added a common faith; the little social circles, wherein the remembrance of home and country, and all connected therewith is brought home to the wanderer's heart with a double zest; the keeping up of that perfect understanding so requisite to unity of action in regard to the first law of our nature, self-defence, for which, in countries like these, there is a stern necessity; that heart must be truly cold and callous, which, on departing from the little few whose circle is thus narrowed, is not deeply affected. Those that remain look upon the one about to leave them as an acquaintance, perhaps a friend, they may never more behold; and although they may feel that he is the happier party in that his journey is homeward, yet it pains them to anticipate in thought the toil, deprivation, and anxiety he must of necessity undergo before reaching the familiar shores—such feelings sadden the last moments of separation, and leave indeed a long, a lingering gloom upon the spirits, but they endear the more; and memory in after life will often dwell on the scenes and friendships known amid those cheerless regions.

I was fortunate in overtaking, near Facutativa, a Señor Herran, brother to the general of that name, then at Panama in command of the troops. Señor Herran was also bound to Honda, to attend personally to the conveyance of some machinery intended for the cotton-mill erecting at Bogotá. I found him to be a very intelligent person, speaking English fluently, having travelled in the United States; we accordingly jogged along the road very agreeably together. We slept that night at the Posada del Cerradero in our clothes, on a wretched truckle-bed. I should rather have said, attempted to sleep; for the insects kept us awake the greater part of the night; and we arose at day-

break shivering and unrefreshed, and proceeded on our journey, arriving at Honda on the first day of February.

Nothing but the fear of losing the boats, which were said to be lying ready to start from Honda, made me forego the pleasure of another short visit to Palmar, and a day's delay in Guaduas, at which place I procured two bags of the most delightful arrow-root I ever used, fully equal in quality to the very best Bermuda. Arrived at the bodegas, I found that Doctor Goudot was at Honda; there were, indeed, no less than five boats lying ready freighted; but there was no likelihood for the present of getting down the river, on account of the scarcity of bogas. Having disposed my people in as good quarters as the wretched bodegas afforded, and leaving my servant Chepe to see to their comfort, I crossed the river in a canoe, when a walk of three quarters of a mile up the bank brought me to the town. Here I found the doctor, with a French friend of his, a Mr. Leon, a merchant in the place; and having joined Mr. Triffrey, who, most fortunately for us, was now residing here as general agent for Illingsworth & Co., of Bogotá, we set about consulting what was best to be done under existing circumstances to accelerate our departure.

The result of this consultation was, that, upon the whole, it would be much better to purchase two good-sized canoes, hire our own bogas, and proceed down the river as rapidly as possible; for, from present appearances, it was totally uncertain when the champacs might leave. Besides, the country was daily getting into a greater state of ferment, and, should hostilities once actually have commenced, we would be much safer in Mompox than either here or in travelling through the country. We now regretted that we had not gone from Bogotá by the road to Maracaibo, which we once intended do-

ing, but had given up our purpose on account of its being so rough and tedious.

In the course of two or three days we were enabled to purchase two fine canoes for the sum of eighty-six dollars. One of these we appropriated for the baggage, and the other for our party, which consisted of five persons. Each boat was to be under the management of a single boga and a pilot, whom we readily procured by offering the enormous sum of ten dollars, when the usual wages were from eighteen to twenty reals. We now concluded to start on the fourth day after our arrival; at which time, however, our bogas were not to be found, when, upon inquiry, we discovered that they had been enticed into the service of Señor Aguadelo, the great boat proprietor, a very wealthy man, and of influence in the place. The means taken to carry through their plans proved effectual, by telling the ignorant men that we were Englishmen going to Carthagena to assist our countrymen, and by threatening them with denunciation to the authorities if they went on the voyage with us. Thus were the poor creatures robbed of the few extra dollars of our agreement! Upon inquiry, we found the character of the owner of the boats to be such as to make us forego all thoughts of remonstrating against his conduct; and we were told to await quietly the arrival of Governor Escobar, who was expected every hour. Accordingly, when he arrived, we presented our passports to him, and demanded that justice should be done us in preventing any one interfering with our departure from the place so soon as a second set of bogas could be procured. To this the governor very promptly acceded; and we had every reason to believe him an upright, gentlemanly personage; and on this account, no doubt, he was hated by Aguadelo and the large body of his dependants. To the incessant efforts of Messrs.

Triffrey and Leon, we were at last mainly indebted for the means of departure; for I do believe that, without their friendly assistance, it would have been weeks ere we could possibly have effected it.

I would here simply caution strangers of every country from attaching the slightest value to letters of introduction! or to any papers which might be thought of consequence, as they would actually be in other countries, since on this occasion we brought letters from the first people in Bogotá, and found their inefficacy. My friend, Dr. Goudot, was a man, too, of much wealth and of high standing there, as he had been a resident for many years. Besides, he was about to return to the country immediately, and was, at the same time, a citizen of France.

I myself had taken the precaution, through the kindness of the American minister, to get my passports made out as bearer of despatches to the United States from Señor Pombo, the minister at Bogotá for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c. Yet none of these considerations were of the least service to any of us with such a man as Aguadelo. Not even a solitary glass of wine, nor an offer of the most trifling favour in his power to bestow, did all our letters and introductions together elicit from him. Neither did my letter from Mr. Gooding receive any attention whatever, although he pays him annually some thousands of dollars for freight, and is reckoned among his warmest friends.

One day the doctor said to an individual, a friend of Aguadelo, "Señor, we are not English;" and his reply was, "If you are not English, you are Jews (meaning heretics), and that is the same thing."

It answers very well to send a large cargo of goods through the hands of such men as Aguadelo, who has, in truth, the undivided control of the whole river; but if a small company like that of ours, and

situated as we were, go up or down the river, or even have a few bales of merchandise either coming or going, I would advise them to avoid such people, as they will most assuredly be taken in at last.

Had we, but a day or two previous to our quitting Bogotá, addressed a few lines to either Mr. Leon or Mr. Triffrey here, instead of trusting to the honour and politeness of Aguadelo, they would have had both boats and men in readiness for our immediate embarcation. This could be done also in the same way by one going from Carthagena to Bogotá, with scarcely coming in contact with such low, grovelling, and deceitful men as Aguadelo of Honda.*

On the 6th we were all once more ready for a start. Till the very last moment did Aguadelo endeavour to get away our bogas, riding down even to the bodegas for that purpose on the morning of our departure: and so exasperated had we become at such contemptible conduct, that I verily believe, had he succeeded in seducing away from their duty a single individual, evil consequences might have ensued to both him and ourselves.

During the week we remained at Honda, I took up my quarters in the house of Mr. Triffrey, in whom I found a most kind, agreeable, and intelligent companion; one perfectly well qualified to give every requisite information in regard to Honda and its vicinity. Mr. T. had in his possession one of the instruments used by Humboldt when he ascended Chimborazo. He expressed himself as very weary of remaining in the country, and entertained hopes of removing to Canada, where his parents resided, some time during the ensuing summer.

* I would here remark, that since my own experience of the great difficulty in the way of travel on the Magdalena, as well as having the opinion of several observing gentlemen who have travelled by both routes, that the one by Maracaibo is by far the best to reach Bogota, unless, indeed, it ever happen that steamboats go into full and efficient operation, when the whole distance between Barranca and Honda might be accomplished in from fourteen to sixteen days, or less.

The situation of Honda is very fine. It stands upon a gentle eminence, where the Guali joins the Magdalena, and is environed on all sides by the most picturesque mountain scenery; the Magdalena rushing past, while the beautiful limpid waters of the Guali, with its romantic banks, flow directly through the centre. This river is crossed by means of a fine wooden bridge, with abutments of heavy masonry.

The drinking of these waters is said to cause the goître to prevail so much in this place by those who attribute the production of that disease to the use of snow water.

The climate is very hot, but not at all unhealthy, and comparatively free from those pests, fleas and moschetoes. Honda, in the time of the Spaniards, and before it suffered very severely by those earthquakes which destroyed more than one half of the best buildings in the place, was a city of much trade and importance. At the present period it contains barely 6000 inhabitants, whose sole support depends upon the river freights. The rivers yield abundance of fish; while plantains and other nutritious fruits peculiar to the country are in the greatest profusion, thus affording the most tempting facilities for leading a lazy life. Consequently, when boats are neither arriving nor departing, the town is so devoid of anything like a business bustle, that one might easily fancy himself walking the streets of a city smitten with the plague.

The formation and construction of the houses, as well as the general appearance of the whole place, give it a strong resemblance to an ancient old-country town. Many of the buildings are huge misshapen edifices of stone or brick, having walls of great thickness, and two stories high. The streets are all paved after the rough Bogotá fashion; some of them

hanging one over another, the descent from one to the other being facilitated by a few steps.

The finest buildings, such as the convents and public offices, are all in ruins, being destroyed by the terrific earthquake in 1806.

Piles of these ruins are yet standing, comprising whole sides of a square, to the height of one story, pillars of hewn stone, &c. Some parts of these ruins present a most picturesque and unique appearance, which is occasioned by the twistings and twinings of the caucha-trees about them, often forming around a broken pillar, or arched entrance, a perfect casing of the most complicated network, the great force of which, as the roots gain thickness and shoot upward, is sufficient to rend asunder the strongest masonry. I saw here a huge mass of such masonry, from, probably, eight to ten tons' weight, completely separated from the main body, and raised a full foot from the foundation.

The neighbourhood of this tree is much dreaded, for should the smallest tendon once gain insertion into some slight rent or crevice in the wall of a house, it will be sure to destroy it, unless prevented in time. They also climb up to the tops of other trees, and often crush the largest of them, and run sometimes along the surface of the ground to an almost incredible distance, destroying every other plant in their course.

The largest ruin is that of the convent of the Jesuits, which, after their expulsion, had been used as a government estanco, or place of deposite for the spiritous distillations of the country. Nearly the whole of the wall composing the fine front entrance is entire, save where the caucha-tree has slightly disarranged the regularity of the architectural outline. Passing through a small wing of the place, once the chapel of the convent, and now refitted to accommodate the family of an old man, who has

some official charge about Honda, we entered the extensive enclosures, where lie ruin upon ruin of baths, cells, and long lines of dilapidated arches, all telling of the former vastness and importance of the place. Ascending the hill just above this, and situated at the very edge of the ancient town, you arrive at what was once the college or seminary of the same order. Little of the walls are now left standing; barely enough to mark out the compass of the edifice itself; but it is said to have been of much greater extent even than the convent. A thick wood has sprung up all around and upon it. From the whole of the enclosure there is evidence of its having been completely filled with cells under ground, extending in regular rows throughout.

Three human sculls were lying together upon a large stone, probably placed there by some one who had come upon them while removing stone for the use of new buildings. They were much decayed, and fancy pictured them as belonging to that black race of self-styled immaculates, who for a while lorded it alike over prince and people, and the sight of whose very ashes, now disinurned and trampled upon, as they lie strewn over the ruins of their once proud palaces, bring an undefined awe over the soul, and shoot an icy pang to the heart of the bravest and the best alive.

The poor ignorant bigots of the lower orders still bury their dead within these precincts, considering it as by far the most holy ground in the town.

Destroy but the great principle of general education, as brought into so healthy a state by Protestant blood and exertion, and you need not suppose, for a moment, that it would be a difficult task to conjure up even a worse spirit than that which inhabited the dark breasts of the Jesuits, whose influence is felt here still at this remote day, and by a people too, who are ever ready to rise up en masse upon the

slightest infringement of their constitution on the part of the executive of the republic, and who yet can worship the foul ruins of the very beings who were always prompt to visit, with fire and fagot, the least expression opposed to their tenets on him who dared but to think for himself.

Nothing can be finer than a short stroll up the wooded banks of the sparkling Guali; and the bathing in its clear waters is truly delightful. After a walk of about ten or fifteen minutes, we came to a bend in the stream, where several large trees have been felled and laid across, so as to rest upon certain huge rocks lying in the very midst of the current. We stepped out upon these, and seating ourselves under the shade of some wide-spreading cauchas, enjoyed the fine soft breeze which played upon the river, and watched the flights of the splendid guacamayas, as they careered to and fro from their abodes in the face of the steep rocky shore beyond. "Such scenery!" exclaimed I; "ay, and such barbarians!" returned my companion, finishing the sentence.

The ferry over the Magdalena, opposite the town, is a most awkward concern. One is obliged to cross in a cramped flat-bottomed scow, just above the worst chorra, or rapid, in the whole navigable part of the river! where its bed is full of large, smooth stones, which might very easily be removed, was there but the slightest spirit of enterprise among those immediately concerned. Mr. Triffrey told me that some years ago he himself cleared away one of the very largest of them by means of blasting, having petitioned the governor to that effect; but that it was a long while before he could be remunerated even for the bare expense of the materials necessary for the purpose.

I found here some fine specimens of jasper, of different colours, on the shore by the rapids; and

the whole of the huge stones which line the beach are of the most smooth and flinty kind.

I visited, in company with Señor Herran, the family of his uncle, Don Juan Zaldua, a very wealthy and respectable man, and an old veteran of the revolution. He wore a silver band around his head, having had it severely shattered when serving under Bolivar.

The operation of trepanning which he underwent, was considered a very nice one, and was performed by Dr. Cheyne of Bogotá, who remarked, that "a person having undergone such, should be prepared at every moment for death, since there might not be a moment's warning of such an event."

A young lady, the niece of Don Zaldua, possessed certainly the most agreeable conversational powers of any native female I saw, together with a sweet, sylphlike form, and a face delicately fair. In short, the whole tout-ensemble presenting a most striking contrast to her sex here generally.

Señor La Guardia, a negro, is the next in commercial consequence here to Aguadelo, and follows the same calling.

The first start which this man received in life, was given by his finding a concealed treasure in one of the old ruinous houses. Like almost all those of low and vulgar origin, who become suddenly possessed of wealth, and whose power is too great for the weakness of their intellect and narrowness of mind properly to sustain, he is very pompous and overbearing in his deportment toward all whom he considers his inferiors, and, like his lighter complexioned compeer, Aguadelo, he will be found ready to take advantage of any one on every convenient occasion; which I, for one, can fully testify; for he charged a double amount for the freight of a lot of goods bound down the river in one of his boats. This man owns a fine estate on the road to Maraquita,

and harassed me much to take a ride out to see it. Accordingly, one morning I started off with him, and a Señor Rodriguez, of Mompox. A horse, ready accoutred, was sent to my lodgings as early as five o'clock, that we might take advantage of the cool of the day. The black don was armed with pistols in holster, and had a dagger of the very largest size stuck into a red belt, which encircled his capacious waist; for the don is very fat as well as rich. A single servant accompanied us, who rode in advance, and seemingly much alive to his own share of consequence, in holding the important station of body-guard to so great a master. His dress was the pure *native livery*, consisting of a smoke-died straw hat, a dirty shirt of the coarsest kind, with trousers of the same material, and barely reaching below the knee. Thus arrayed, he trotted on before us, swinging his bare legs beneath the mule, and occasionally jerking round his head to see if all was right, and if neither buzzard nor robber had as yet made a pounce upon us. I thought, at the time, I should really have been pleased had some alarm been given, to see the fellow with his long bare legs, scamper away in advance, that he might give notice at the nearest station (three leagues off) how his master was in danger of being murdered!

I believe, however, that the road to Maraquita is now perfectly safe for travellers at all times; though, formerly, a few outrages might have been committed there. It is very good, and perfectly level as far as I travelled, winding along through a narrow plain or valley, having a continued range of rugged mountains on either side. The Magdalena runs at the base of one range, and a fine clear stream at the other; thus rendering these fields very fine for cattle, several large herds of which we observed, but far inferior in size and plumpness to those which fatten upon the richer plains of Bogotá.

I was told that the grass was bitter, as I found it to be upon trial, and this, I think, must make it frequently injurious to cattle. Don la Guardia informed me that he was about eradicating it on his own lands, and seeding down a superior sort. We had now arrived on the opposite side of those singularly shaped hills, which I have before described as witnessed from the bodegas of La Madre de Dios, the remarkable and romantic nature of which nothing can excel.

The upright ranges of the basaltic rock, here and there broken away into masses of every possible shape and indentation; the irregularity of the hill-tops themselves, covered as they are with the richest verdure, whereon, for miles together, not a tree nor shrub is perceptible, might well afford a wide scope for fancy to the very dullest of imaginations.

A low range of these rocks, with the smooth green turf completely covering them even to their very edge, presents a most correct representation of any one of the little Indian villages on the Magdalena. A space in the centre, higher than the rest, points out the church; while walls, with their towers and embattlements; ancient castles; a city in ruins, with every appendage of broken arch and solitary column, are all here.

I observed one single hill wholly detached from every other which surrounded it, at least 600 yards distant from any at the nearest point, and which presented a conelike shape of the most perfect symmetry, apparently towering upward to at least 1500 feet. It could not, however, have been more than the like number of feet at the base. On the very summit was a large wooden cross.

In pursuing our journey through this plain, there were very few symptoms of cultivation. We perceived only a few small patches of cane and maize,

and four or five habitations during a rather rapid ride of three hours.

There is some sugar made in the neighbourhood of Honda, but it is very black and heavy, and not to be compared with that of Guaduas. Before reaching the señor's hacienda, the plain opens out to some extent. The road becomes a single narrow path through the tall grass, difficult, when once missed, I should think, to be regained by a stranger, as he would have no other means of guiding his course than by keeping, as near as possible, "a midships," as the tar would say, between the two mountains, and pushing on ahead over every chance impediment.

At the hacienda we found the whole family of the don, who were out rusticating for a few weeks. Madame la Guardia, a fat, vulgar-looking woman, some shades lighter in complexion than her husband, and two grown-up daughters, one of whom had the hue of the father and the other that of the mother—a very equal distribution, surely, and one which must undoubtedly preclude much recrimination. These, and two sons of Señor Rodrigues, students from Bogotá, composed the whole number. While at a little distance from the house, the approach seemed to indicate something tasty and different from the general order of things in this country. There was the dwelling, with its cleanly whitewashed walls, and surrounded by a handsome railed fence, which, with the numerous outhouses, and a large circular walled enclosure for cattle, the whole completely shaded over by caucha-trees of immense size, loomed up from out the naked plain like a welcome sail upon the dreary deep: whitened sepulchres all! The moment you pass the threshold of the door, the beautiful illusion of comfort and real enjoyment vanishes! Naked earthen floors,

with dirt and filth in every corner; the total absence of neat and tasteful furniture; the miserable truckle-bed, and the whitewashed mud walls, plentifully bedaubed with outlandish-looking figures of flowers, birds, and beasts in red and yellow ochre, cause an involuntary sigh to escape at sight of what would teach one to prefer the hardest lot in his own country to that of the rich black don, La Guardia, of Honda.

My ride had somewhat whetted my appetite, and I was not a little glad to perceive strong symptoms of breakfast as soon as we entered the room; but, although this meal consisted of the most substantial fare, there being three different dishes of meat, I could not so much as taste a mouthful on account of their everlasting seasoning of cumin and garlic. Observing some cows at the door, I was fain to beg a little milk, which was brought to me *unstrained*. Hunger, however, forced me to make a good meal upon it and some black bread; the whole concluding with the usual thimbleful of chocolate, after which three red earthen vessels were produced, from which the whole party (eight persons) were to drink water and rinse their mouths!!

Breakfast over, we repaired to the circular walled enclosure, to witness the peones lasso the young cattle previous to putting the owner's mark upon them. This is a very necessary precaution, since the property of many individuals all run wild, and mix together on these extensive plains. Madame la Guardia, seated upon an elevated platform outside the wall, kept giving from time to time the necessary directions about the cattle, and seemed much to enjoy the sport of occasionally seeing a poor peone thrown down, and narrowly escaping being trampled upon by the careering animals. While witnessing such sights, with others still less suited to female delicacy, did both señoritas and their good mamma appear to be in their very element. The peones had

a most cruel method of taking off the points of the creature's horns, hacking at them with a dull machete, thus keeping the poor animal roaring with pain for an unnecessary length of time.

But for the excessive heat of the meridian sun, I should have returned to Honda shortly after breakfast. As it was, I remained to make a second meal of bread and milk, for want of something better; and then, taking leave of mine host and family, returned to Honda, where I arrived an hour after sunset, accompanied by the same servant who went out with us in the morning.

At 11 o'clock A. M. on the 7th of February we pushed off our canoes from the bodega shore. Our very kind friend Mr. Triffrey insisted upon descending with us as far as Madre de Dios, having ordered a horse and attendant round by land to take him back.

By erecting over the canoe a support of bended hoop-poles, and covering them with blankets, we formed a snug arched retreat, under which we might be protected from the fierce rays of the sun, and even from any slight shower we might encounter. Then placing mattresses on the bottom of the canoe, we had barely room to sit upright, and were obliged to crawl in and out on all fours. A short space was left open at the bow and stern to enable the bogas to stand up and use their paddles. To this place we could also, one at a time, retreat for a while, and ease our limbs from their cramped position. We had a good stock of provisions, some of which we had brought from Bogotá. So, with a neat, condensed cooking apparatus, we looked forward to more satisfaction than in our former trip up the river, as our tight canoes danced down the first chorras at the rate of about 18 knots per hour. It would have pleased any one to witness the indescribable gleam of satisfaction which irradiated each of our faces as,

in a bare moment of time, the little vessel rapidly shot past some point in the river which, in our passage up, had cost us more than two hours of the greatest toil and exertion. At sunset we anchored near a small hut, and after supper made our beds on the bank close to the boats; slept soundly; but, before midnight, were awakened by a heavy shower, which completely drenched us through. We had no more sleep that night, and we thought it rather a tough commencement of our journey.

8th. Detained by the rain until eight A. M. Met four large champans, in one of which I recognised my good friend Señor R. Santa Maria, who was returning from a visit to his father on the Rio Negro.

This night I swung my hammock under the eaves of a hut, which fortunately saved me from a second drenching. The rest of the party slept also under cover. We awoke next morning quite refreshed.

Before retiring to bed, we had taken the trouble to cook a ham for our next day's provision, and had left it in the pot to cool during the night; and, on rising in the morning, lo! no ham was there. It had disappeared; for the dogs had scented out the savoury morsel, and had indulged their dainty appetites with a stolen repast.

9th. Started at six A. M. At two P. M. we encountered a most tremendous shower, which nearly filled our canoe before we could run her ashore; when we had done so we were obliged to stop the remainder of the day in order to dry our clothes, much as we regretted the time thus lost. Not an article of dress had we on but what was soaked through completely. In the night the wind was so strong as frequently to blow down our toldas, and thus leave us exposed to the merciless bites of the rascally moschetoes, which certainly must have carried ballast under their wings,

to enable them to bear up to the attack against such a hurricane.

10th. Off at half past five A. M. The sun intolerably hot, and the bogas beginning to show up old colours.

12th. About noon of this day we reached San Pablo. Here our baggage underwent an examination of the customs, in order to see if we had any smuggled gold-dust, tobacco, or segars in our possession; and I had great difficulty in preventing them from breaking open my box of paintings, which it would have been almost impossible to close up again properly. Here one of the bogas got drunk and left us, taking away his paddle with him. We were determined that this should not delay our journey; so we purchased another paddle, and, trusting to fall in with another boga in our farther progress, all three of us took turns in propelling the boat. Hard work, truly, under so intense a sun, but not to be compared with delay in a place like this. We slept at a hut.

13th. Off at half past five A. M.; and what was our surprise, in getting into the canoe, to find our runaway there before us. He had repented of what he had done, but merely on the score of self-interest and necessity, as he wished to reach Barranca, his native place, and found he could not effect this half so conveniently as with us! So, on a similar score of necessity, did we, on our own part, again receive the villain, and so proceeded on.

Passed the port of Ocaña. At night we scudded along, under the mild radiance of a fine moon, until midnight, when we pitched our tents upon a playa.

14th. Off at five A. M. Quite a strong breeze blew up the river; and, although very grateful to us, it much impeded our progress. At sunset we made Banco, where we stopped to buy some of the

beautiful esteras or coloured straw mats, of which there are large manufactories in this place; but we could only procure three or four. Some merchants, in passing up a few days before, had bought all they could lay their hands upon for the Bogotá market.

During the very short time we were absent from the boat for this purpose, certainly not more than twenty minutes, two of the bogas had, somehow, contrived to get drunk, and it took a full half hour to get them off. They wished very much to stay here all night, as there were two large boats filled with bogas lying here, and they would have had a glorious frolic. We, on the other hand, were quite as anxious to take advantage of the grateful moonlight to push onward. In order to gain our assent, they told us, as did also the people on shore, that the river immediately below was filled with snags, and of dangerous navigation even by daylight. However, the oldest and steadiest of our pilots, a man well known on the river, and for his baldness called José Maria Peleado, assured us there was not the least danger in such light canoes as we occupied, in a night, too, when it was as light as day. So we forced the drunken wretches off. After proceeding down for a few miles, the most refractory boga of the three, being in the bow of our own canoe, refused to paddle any longer, and stripped off his clothes to be in readiness, as he said, to swim ashore the moment the boat upset. When I found that no persuasion would induce him to alter his dogged resolution, I told him that I, as well as the other two "blancos" (white men) in the boat, could swim as well as he; but as there were two women who could not, it was our duty to see that their lives lay not in the power of a drunken and rebellious boga. Therefore, seeing that the old pilot could scarcely, with-

out assistance, keep the canoe in the current, I should positively shoot him dead the very instant the boat upset; and this threat I seconded by stepping out into the little open space where he sat, and cocking a pistol close to his ear, the ticking of which set the paddle afloat and working the very next instant. In the night, when we lay encamped upon the playa, this same vagabond was attacked with a most severe fit of the river fever. His screams were tremendous, and his contortions of countenance fearful to look upon. We gave him a dose of medicine which relieved him.

15th. On our voyage again at five A. M. Just as we were preparing to start, another boga refused to leave the beach, alleging as a reason that some one had stolen his money; and we were obliged to resort to force to get him into the boat. Reached Mompox at sunset, having lost a full day in making the descent from Honda, on account of the rain.

The first persons we met on the wharf were my good friends Mr. Leone and Señor Troncoso, the ex-governor, who immediately procured us an excellent house, and set about furnishing it with necessary articles; but, for my own part, I preferred accepting a bed in Mr. Leone's house, where, after a thorough cleansing from the effects of a whole week's Magdalena voyaging, I enjoyed a most delicious sleep. Nothing can give greater zest to the enjoyment of a good bed than sleeping for some previous nights upon hard planks and sandbars.

16th. Concluded not to prosecute our journey farther in these canoes, as our friends here informed us that we would find a strong breeze blowing up the river at this season a little below Mompox, so that the swell would be too much for such small boats. We accordingly sold our canoes, and shifted our luggage into two small bongas belonging to

Mr. Leone, which happened, luckily, to be all ready to start for Barranca.

In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Leone, their family, and myself, went to witness the performance of the Bogotá company of comedians, who, it seemed, were spending a few days here on their way to Carthagena, where they meant to open for the season. A temporary stage, with seats for the audience, had been erected in the spacious paved court-yard of the college. Three or four individuals had also put up some sort of boxes. Among these was Señor Troncoso, who politely offered me a seat in his.

The night was most lovely, and the blue arch above was thickly studded with the most brilliant stars. The play was "Alonzo the Brave," and "The Blind Beggars." The last a capital little comedy, in which the manager shone out, as usual, in the most happy manner. The play or melodrame was a dull, stupid affair, as all their attempts at tragedy prove to be; while the plot bore a sort of resemblance to that of "Pizarro." The audience were extremely orderly and well-dressed. Admittance three reals.

17th. Left Mompox at eleven A. M., and really with feelings much akin to regret, having ever experienced the most kind and gentlemanly treatment there. This was our lot not only among such warm-hearted beings as Mr. Leone* and the Señor Troncoso, who is more than half a foreigner himself, but from the respectable natives generally, whose manners and bearing, on the whole, are far superior to those of Bogotá, which must ever be considered as holding within its bosom the very filth and scum of the whole republic; fallen politi-

* Since my arrival in the States, my most worthy friend and his lady have both deceased, and within a very few days of each other, of the country fever.

cians, disbanded officers, a filthy priesthood, and a set of low, grumbling knaves of every sort, who hang upon its skirts, ready at all times to seize upon every advantage that may accrue to them from their own traitorous and mischief-working designs.

Mr. Leone having heard me express a wish of taking a monkey home with me, presented me with one of a singular species, which he had had in his possession for several years; a most knowing fellow, and as attached as a mastiff. "Jacko," for so they called him, was of a dun colour, and about two feet and a half high, with features much more regular than are to be found in any other of his species in this country or elsewhere. Jacko always slept with a part of a blanket over his head, which he would draw around him, just leaving his eyes visible, which gave him a most comical expression. He was in the habit of calling up Mr. Leone every morning regularly at sunrise, by beating against the bedroom door with a little wooden hammer; and on one occasion, when Mrs. Leone had some dispute with a drunken hoga, who called upon some errand during her husband's absence, Jacko unchained the house-dog and set him on the negro. Jacko became, while in my possession, uncommonly attached to me, and would allow few others to handle him; but, subsequently, he gave me so much trouble, that I finally parted with him to a friend going to Edinburgh, and since that time I have not heard of him. To show the extreme sagacity of this animal, I may state that, while in New-York, being chained very near a counting-desk to a large iron safe in the office, the spring of which, that concealed the keyhole, he had observed the clerk touch in order to open it; and so carefully had he marked it, that at last he could open the safe himself, and one day he got out one or two account books, which he nearly defaced

with ink. If he wished to obtain anything lying on the floor beyond the reach of his chain, he would use his blanket, throwing it out before him, and then cautiously drawing it forward, until, by repeated efforts, he effected his object. In running about the floor, he would lighten himself of his chain by means of his ring-tail, in order to prevent its hurting his back.

I would never have used a chain for the poor fellow had he not possessed such a knowing knack of unloosing the most intricate knots that could be made in a rope. I have stood by and witnessed his attempts to pull up the staple which confined him to the floor. He used first to place a link of his chain under it, and then press with all his strength.

While at Mompox we heard that the affair with Great Britain had been all adjusted, which was, indeed, a most fortunate thing for us; also the additional good information that the ship Marcellino was then at Carthagena, and would probably sail for New-York about the 26th of the present month. This was, indeed, good intelligence, for we feared she had already sailed, as she no doubt would have done had she not been detained by the British fleet as being a Columbian vessel. At five o'clock P.M. we witnessed a most singular appearance in the sun, which suddenly became of a complexion exactly similar to that of melted metal. This was succeeded, after about two or three minutes, by one of bright yellow, then blood-red, and finally it disappeared in a thick, smoky haze, which overspread the whole heavens. All night long we kept on our course, the bogas just exerting themselves sufficiently to retain the boat in the current. We passed a most miserable night, as we could contrive no plan to prevent the moschetoes from half devouring us.

18th. Stopped at noon at Teneriffe; the sun scorchingly hot. We wished to procure a few

cocoanuts, but could not induce one of the lazy people to leave their huts to get them for us. Jacko quarrelled with one of the doctor's parrots and pushed it into the river, and it was with much difficulty that we rescued it. At four P. M., the wind bearing strong against us, and a considerable swell running, we lay by at a little village until eight o'clock, when the breeze usually ceases. We then kept on as before during the whole night; but I believe we made very little progress, as I awoke from a short nap and found every boga fast asleep, while the boats were spinning round like so many tops. It was fortunate that they had not run ashore.

At sunrise made Barranca, the termination of our river travel! Being particularly recommended to a Señor Duque by our good friend Leone, as the proper person to procure us mules, we proceeded immediately to his house, where we were refreshed with chocolate, &c.; the señor instantly set out to procure the necessary number of beasts; but we delayed starting until three o'clock P. M., to avoid the excessive heats, and calculating to travel by the light of a fine moon, which still shone, until midnight. We found out, however, on our arrival at Carthagena, that this same Duque, who manifested such extreme eagerness to serve us and his "buen amigo," Mr. Leone, at the same time, had charged us precisely double the usual rates, besides our paying nearly two dollars extra for the monkey and two parrots! Yet this specious swindler had the face to solicit the freightage of whatever goods, &c., we might hereafter be sending to and from Bogotá!

The truth is, the knave was acting exactly upon the stupid principle which every native, high or low, seems to think the best for themselves; and which tares strictly with the old proverb, "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush;" and I question much whether this Duque of Barranca, for the sake of

about thirty dollars which he swindled us out of in this little transaction, would not rather have foregone a thousand dollars of honest profits at some future day than have lost this opportunity.

Barranca is a small, neat-looking Indian village; and is rather more bustling than they are generally, on account of its being the great depôt for goods going or coming on this, the only road to Carthagena. It being the dry season, we travelled through deep woods, over a fine level road, until, at midnight, we reached the neat little town of Mahates, distant about eleven leagues from Barranca. Before arriving, I had become so overpowered by sleep, owing to the want of proper rest during the two preceding nights, that it was with the greatest difficulty I could keep my seat upon the horse.

We found the town in perfect darkness, nor could we learn from our stupid muleteers whether there was a *posada* in the place or not. At length we espied a solitary light in what appeared to be rather a genteel-looking house, situated in the square; and we rode towards it, and found two negroes standing on the piazza. We inquired of them if we might be permitted, for the night, to spread our mattresses in one of the halls of the house, as we were travellers and knew not where to apply. They answered that we were very welcome. So we unloaded our mules, placed the baggage on the piazza, and then began to make some arrangements for supper. When, lo! as we were in the midst of all this, the owner of the mansion, a female, in company with another lady, entered the gateway on her return, it seemed, from some *tertullia*. We immediately fell to stammering out a thousand excuses for the liberty we appeared to be taking, adding that we had believed the house to belong to the two negroes, whom we now perceived were her servants. The lady, in the kindest manner, bade us welcome, and insisted upon

her own servants assisting us. We afterward discovered that our fair young hostess was a rich widow; and it was well for us that she was, as (peace to the manes of her deceased lord!) we might otherwise have fared differently had he still been above ground! But, let the women of this country be what they may in certain points, kindness and hospitality, after their own peculiar fashion, have never, as yet, been found wanting; and this, I believe, has been observed in every land, barbarous or civilized, bond or free, whereon the traveller's foot has ever wandered. Woman has the heart to feel, and, therefore, never lacks in kind and generous offices towards those who may come within the sphere of her benevolent care. May God bless them all!

I swung my hammock over the baggage to guard it, while the others slept in the house.

20th. Started at a quarter before six A. M. The road still led through most beautiful woods, where the syba-tree grows to an enormous size. The trunk of this tree is perfectly smooth, and barrel-shaped; of very little value for timber, being of a spongy, soft nature, and of rapid decay. Canoes made of its wood never last longer than two years. The Guaduas, or large building cane, grows here very thick. There are also many beautiful flowering shrubs; and these woods are filled with monkeys, squirrels, wild turkeys, &c. Indeed, the whole journey from Barranca to Carthagena, when made in the dry season, is one of the most picturesque and pleasing kind. During the winter months, however, it is the very reverse; for then the mules not unfrequently stick fast in the deep miry clay which composes the soil, and articles of merchandise are often seriously damaged. And yet with what facility and at how small an expense might a railroad be laid down over so level a surface! The stupidly-contrived canal, which is said once to have answered

the purpose (although I cannot myself credit it), is at present entirely choked up; and, besides, only extends over a part of the route.

Col. Biddle has also the grant for opening a proper communication here; and it could not be in better hands.* We crossed the dirty, stagnant canal about half a league out, where they charged us one real each for crossing.

About six leagues from Mehahes lies the village Arjona, which we reached by noon. Here we breakfasted, or, rather, breakfasted and dined together, after which a siesta was taken by both men and beasts, and then we again set out at about half past two P. M. A short ride brought us to Turbaco, a town of some size and note, situated at an elevation of about 1000 feet above the sea, on the highest point of land between the seacoast and the river. It has become the summer retreat of the wealthy from Carthagena, and even of the poorer classes, during seasons of great sickness, as the climate is said to remain healthy throughout the year. There is always a fine soft breeze blowing over the top of the mountain.

A little to the east of the town lie eighteen or twenty small mounds, of about as many feet high, which discharge, at regular intervals of from thirty to forty seconds, and with some noise, a sort of gas, which is produced from water contained in their apex, in the centre of which there are small openings. They are called by the natives "volcanitos," or little volcanoes. Nothing else of much interest is to be seen here; neither could I perceive a single well-built house; but, as they had had a severe fire in the place very recently, just before our arrival, by which a large part of the finest street was destroyed, they might probably have possessed some buildings of a better class than those now standing.

At a short distance beyond Turbaco we had the

* This has fallen through, along with the Panama road.

first view of the sea, "the blue, the fresh, the ever free;" and in an instant every rein was checked, as we halted for some moments to gaze down upon her misty shores, while the yellow rays of a setting sun tinged with a soft and melancholy light every object around us. And had, in truth, I thought, those very waves, whose frothy tops I can but just descry, kissed the shores of that happy land wherein dwells all that this heart holds most dear and most loved! And while these thoughts filled the mind, I feasted my eyes upon the faithless, treacherous thing as if it had been the face of some long-separated friend.

Who can fathom the hidden depths of the human heart, or regulate the springs of the affections when the deep gushings of hope and joy thus start afresh at the bare sight of a broken wave of the dark and mighty ocean!

Night overtook us while yet full two leagues from the city; but, as the doctor rode the best horse, and as we had despatched him at a round pace as an "avant courier," either to La Popa or the suburbs of the city, in order to procure a house for us, we kept onward, determining to conclude our journey that night. The moon rose clear and full, and we entertained no fears of missing our way, although the baggage-mules were far behind us. Before reaching the bay shore, the road became very intricate, and we had no small difficulty in threading our way through a thick-set grove of small trees and bushes, where innumerable zigzag paths along the bare, clayey soil not a little puzzled us. Arriving at La Popa, we were rejoiced to find that the doctor had succeeded in getting a house, which was all in readiness for our accommodation; so that, within one hour after dismounting, our baggage was all snugly stowed away, a good supper heartily despatched, and all of us deliciously dozing away in our hammocks.

CHAPTER VIII.

Carthagena.—Messrs. Benedeti.—Marcellino.—Com. Peyton.—Aversion of the Carthagenians to Hostile Measures.—Mr. Ayton.—Iguanas.—Means of Defence.—Inquisition.—Retrospective View.—Homeward Voyage.

At sunrise of the following day we set out for the city, in order to secure passages on board the Marcellino, as we had heard of the likelihood of her being well filled. The distance from the La Popa suburbs to the city is a full mile, of which we had no idea when we started on foot. Afterward we hired a volante during our stay at the rate of four dollars a week, that we might go backward and forward to Carthagena from La Popa twice a day. We remained at the latter place until the vessel sailed, as we were assured that we would find it much cooler and pleasanter there. Another inducement was, that as the ship would sail in a few days, our luggage would require but one more removal. I was very glad afterward that we stayed at La Popa; for we had the full benefit of a fine seabreeze in the evening, and enjoyed the exquisite pleasure of discovering that there was not a single moscheto to torment us, while the tiny gentry were numerous enough in the city itself. The volante, the only sort of public carriage or hack which they possess here, is a very awkward sort of thing—a two-wheeled vehicle, something similar to a topped gig. The driver mounts the wretched horse, and, by dint of untiring zeal in the application of the whip both to the right and left, he manages to keep at a trot.

I delivered my letters to the Messrs. Benedeti, and found them both, as they have always been rep-

resented, most gentlemanly men, as well as most exact and honourable in business. Their house was freely offered to me, and they were ever most ready to serve and assist me to the very extent of their power. They are brothers, of most respectable connexions, and are doing an excellent business. Knowing, as I do, how well and faithfully they have carried through extensive commissions for myself and others, I would impress upon foreigners having business here, unless, indeed, they may have established prior connexions, that they could not do better than consign their effects to these gentlemen. They speak and write the English as fluently as the Spanish, which is a great advantage to those coming to the country who may not have perfected themselves in the language, and who are thus frequently led into most serious blunders in various transactions of trade.

We found but barely room for us on board the Marcellino; and happy was I once more to shake hands with her pleasant and able commander.

The big-looking symptoms of warfare had all subsided; the English, sure enough, having been satisfied to the full of all their demands. The whole squadron had sailed, with the exception of the Madagascar frigate and a tender.

I saw this day Commodore Peyton, to whom the British residents had given a dinner. He is a fine-looking man, of most manly yet pleasant bearing, while the loss of an arm far from detracts from the true dignity of his appearance. He is a gallant naval officer.

I can now fancy I see how amazed the natives must have stared out upon the gallant Peyton and his coadjutor ————, the latter without a leg. They have no idea of such loppings off among themselves, and the sight could not have failed to be salutary in regard to their own vain boastings. I

was credibly informed that the greatest excitement had existed here in regard to the foolish gasconading of the government in making a quarrel with England; and that it was the governor of Carthagena's intention never to have allowed the British to fire a second gun upon the place, but to have surrendered up the city to them, as the people here very properly remarked "that they should not stand by and witness their town battered about their ears merely to gratify the whim of General Santander and his Bogotá council, who never had, as yet, evinced much consideration for the interests of Carthagena." And this is really too true! The greatest ill-feeling exists between the seacoast generally and the government at Bogotá, and from a very natural cause, self-interest.

With a tariff, which, in many points of most essential interest to the seaboard towns, amounts almost to direct prohibition, disunion must, sooner or later, enter in among the provinces of the republic, unless some more consistent legislation be adopted. Just take, for instance, the single article of flour, the primary item in the great staples of life, and you will find it taxed to an amount nearly equalling the original cost abroad, merely for the purpose of supporting the few small cultivators of wheat on the Bogotá plains; while it is a well-known fact, that, even with all such encouragement, they do not produce grain sufficient for the consumption of Bogotá alone! Neither could they raise more than would be enough for half the republic, granting every acre was under the very highest state of cultivation.

I delivered my despatches to Mr. Ayton, the American consul here. Mr. A. is a Scotchman by birth, a respectable merchant in the place, and married to a sister of the Señores Benedeti. I dined at his house, and also on two or three different occasions at the Benedeti's, where I observed every-

thing to be on the old English plan. Their apartments were most handsomely furnished. There is an air of comfort and convenience about Carthagena generally, which, compared with the boasted capital, Bogotá, might render a residence here not so very much to be deprecated. It has an excellent coffee-house, where most of the respectable men of business, both native and foreign, meet for the purpose of spending an hour or two in the evening, and where one can be furnished with excellent tea, coffee, liquors, wines, &c., as well as in London or New-York. Hotels are not so good for the accommodation of boarders, but yet they are passable. I saw two of them; but any respectable foreigner arriving here can never be at a loss for the best of accommodations in the houses of some of his countrymen. Then one may occasionally come across a new publication of some kind, a resource not to be so easily had in Bogotá, while an evening's ennui can always be driven away by resorting to the little pleasant and refined society which you may be always sure of meeting at the café.

Carthagena, with its narrow streets, and heavy, jutting architecture, must have presented a strong resemblance to Honda when in its prime. Most of the houses are of two stories, with lattices after the Spanish and Italian fashion, to which are attached awnings to shut out the sun's rays. On the roofs they have terraces, where they sometimes sleep during the hot, dry season. There is a cathedral and several churches, but with nothing very remarkable about them. The governor's offices are much more appropriate than those of the capital; and the building itself, although presenting a very plain exterior, is of massive structure, with a portico running the whole length of the front, and supported by numerous columns. The custom-house is well planned, and stands upon the quay, where is the only entrance

for boats and lighters coming and going from the shipping in the bay.

The whole population, including suburbs and all, may amount to eighteen or twenty thousand, and, altogether, it is a place of no inconsiderable business-bustle, totally different from the dulness which Bogotá presents in this particular; yet the market soon becomes choked with but trifling quantities of anything; and I believe those make out the better here who confine themselves to closely watching the market, and dash in or out a short, neat shipment, which they can immediately close with a handsome gain, than to drag on at any regular trade, unless it be a well-connected commission business. But few or no fortunes have been realized here of late, and the general credit of the place is in rather bad odour both in the United States and in England, as well as in the West Indies, since the people owe immense sums abroad which it is utterly out of the question ever to imagine that they will pay.

From what I have seen and heard of the climate here, I should not be inclined to consider it as an unhealthy one, considering the great heat. Rain-water is used altogether. Occasionally a few cases of leprosy occur, but this loathsome disease is said to be fast disappearing. There is a fine hospital, to which all sufferers from this disorder are instantly taken, and where every attention is paid to their comfort and convenience. Carthagena, like all other parts of this coast, is subject to two very destructive annoyances; one of which is the comején, a red ant, or, rather, moth, so small as scarcely to be perceptible to the eye, that eats its way through the hardest woods in a single night. To avoid them, all barrels, trunks, boxes, and every species of goods and utensils accessible to them, and liable to their certain powers of destruction, should be raised one

or two feet from the floor, and the feet of whatever supports them well coated with pitch, tar, or any other substance which the insect is averse to touch. The stock of a very fine fowling-piece was shown to me, entirely ruined by them in less than forty-eight hours. They also gnaw into the doors and exposed posts of houses. As these vermin seem invariably to make their approaches from the ground, people could always avoid suffering by them if they would strictly follow the rule of never placing any article of value in any other way than upon raised platforms. The other annoyance to which the town is subject is in the shape of another little animal, a worm, which is to substances in the water what the comején is to those on land; eating into and utterly destroying all woods which come in their way. Therefore no vessel ought to come to this place without being coppered. There is lying here the frame intended for a fine steamboat, sent out from New-York at a great expense, which has been rendered entirely useless by these destructive worms.

Large bats of the vampyre species, with myriads of the smaller kinds, nightly blacken the heavens. The former suck the blood from the great toe, which is frequently attended with very serious results. I heard that Mrs. Haldane, of Palmar, once suffered severely in this way. It is easy to guard against such consequences, for there is no danger provided the feet be kept covered. The lady here mentioned was sleeping at the time under a canopy, when the foul animal bit her through the moscheto-netting.

The scorpion attains to an immense size here. I had one offered to me for a cuartillo by a boy, who made him a prisoner by means of a string attached to its body. Strangers frequently obtain them to preserve as specimens.

I observed in the market the cruel practice of cutting open the female iguanas in order to extract the

eggs. The incision is made in the side and towards the back, and scarcely any blood follows, for there appears to be nothing which covers the eggs but the tough skin of the horrible-looking brute. Nor could I detect the smallest symptom indicative of pain, not even by the moving of the eye. The wound is afterward sewed up, and the animal continues to live, remaining in as good marketable condition as if it had never been disturbed. It is an animal seemingly as retentive of life as the tortoise. In a friend's house one day I observed a little cruel negro preparing one of them for the table. He threw the poor beast, alive and whole, upon a hot fire of charcoal, in order to get off the outer skin, which is tough and of a dingy hue; when, instantly, the naturally sluggish animal, with one violent effort, threw itself from the grate upon the floor. The negro, laughing at the sport, was about to renew the barbarous game; and, the master of the house not being himself present, I took it upon me to threaten the young negro with a like treatment to that which he was bestowing upon the iguana, unless he immediately desisted, and first killed the animal. Accordingly, the head was removed with a hatchet, notwithstanding which the brute continued to writhe upon the fire most terribly, and I was forced to turn away. As he supposed this a sort of justification for his inhuman conduct, the black desired me to observe that "it was all one whether the head was on or off, as he well knew by former experiments." The flesh of this animal is very white and delicate, and said to be most delicious food; but I never could be persuaded to partake of the dish, although I once tasted the eggs, which were not, however, very palatable.

As to the beauty and appearance of the women of Carthagena, both sink sadly in comparison with those of Bogotá, whereas the men are better looking.

There is a sort of dull listlessness about their features here, which, added to great sallowness of complexion, detracts much from the interest excited even by the best forms and faces.

The city lies in 10° 26′ 35″ north latitude, being built upon a sandy peninsula, and joined to the mainland by two artificial necks of land of about sixty or seventy yards in width. This is Carthagena proper, although the suburb, called Xexemeni, is about two thirds the size of the former, and is joined to it by a bridge, having also its own fortifications, which are of a much more modern date than those of the city itself. The bay and harbour are the very finest in the world, being completely shut in on all sides, and so perfectly secure that vessels may ride there with the most perfect ease and safety during the very worst of weather. The only entrance to the harbour is by the strait called Bocachica (little mouth), which is strongly fortified by a castle as well as by nature, having numerous shoals around it.

Carthagena has probably the best means of defence of any place in all South America, and millions must have been expended upon the works and fortifications by the old Spaniards. In the hands of any powerful and gallant nation, with plenty of stores laid in, and the few little deficiencies in the line of fortifications remedied, all which might be done in a very short time and at a small expense, ten or twelve thousand veteran troops might keep a world at bay. But, at the time of the late troubles with England, matters wore quite a different aspect than formerly; and, if my readers will just step back with me to the La Popa suburbs, we will together, from that quarter, enter the city, and take a cursory view of the *warlike preparations* with which this motley people purposed to meet the power of Great Britain, as I found them on my arrival here, two or three days subsequent to the sailing of the English squadron.

La Popa is the name given to a hill of about 550 feet above the sea, from its resemblance to the poop or stern of a ship; and upon its summit there once stood a very fine convent and battery. Before the destructive warfare between the Patriots and Spaniards, beautiful villas extended for nearly a league along the La Popa road; and, for the first mile after emerging from the gates of Xexemeni, there was a regular, connected row of houses, now almost entirely removed. At this time it presents only a few straggling buildings, although, latterly, three or four very pretty residences have been added; and La Popa may yet, at some future day, shine forth in all her former beauty. Taking advantage of the cool of the afternoon, Doctor Guodot and myself prepared to ascend the Popa. We found the ascent very easy; but what was our surprise, upon gaining the summit, to find the breastwork, which had been lately thrown up on the occasion in question, and which presented such an imposing appearance from the city, and even from the very bottom of the hill, made up of nothing more than a fence of bundles of small rods or brushwood, staked in so as to form, in appearance, a square redoubt, having a tall flagstaff in the centre, upon which the colours were regularly hoisted, as if a full garrison were occupying the place. Not a gun, however, was visible; nor could the frail defence have been intended for anything but a mere scarecrow. Yet I am confident that a good glass from a ship close upon the coast might have easily discovered what the humbug was. Passing on, we entered the ruins of the convent, but not a soul could we for a long time see, although we hallooed most lustily.

These ruins have the same sort of deceptive appearance at a distance as the ramparts of brushwood, while, in truth, there is but one small wing left standing; all else is one mass of ruins; broken arches,

crumbling walls, and roofless apartments. Those parts in best keeping are the huge cisterns, in the formation of which the whole site seems to have been excavated. We drank of the water, and found it very good.

Arriving at length at a door which resisted all our efforts to open it, in order to enter the only wing which was entire, we thundered away at it until a human face peeped out from a little lattice above our heads, and a voice demanded what we wanted. We replied that we merely wished to view the building; so he opened the door, and proved very attentive in showing us everything worthy of note about the place. This poor fellow was a shoemaker, and he informed us that now the whole charge of the place devolved upon him, for which care he was allowed to set up his stall in what was formerly the *commandant's room* during the stay of the *garrison*, and he had likewise small perquisites in money.

The *governor* of La Popa, as I suppose we must style him, conducted us to his quarters; a large, naked-looking room fronting the sea, and reached by ascending a ladder, leading up through a scuttle in the floor. A hammock, a shoemaker's bench, and a wooden seat or two composed the whole of the furniture, with the exception of an indifferent spy-glass, which, he pompously told us, belonged to the government, and had been left there that he could keep a good look-out along the coast for fear "los Ingleses" might take it into their heads to return, upon which he was to make signals to the town. We asked him what garrison had been there; and he replied, "three or four soldiers, who had the charge of the workmen employed in erecting the battery" (as he termed the aforesaid scarecrow) "at the point of the island; but that, had the English landed, there would have been plenty of troops, and a commandant was then ready in the place to take charge of them."

The guns that were to have been mounted behind so tremendous a breastwork, and manned by the three or four soldiers who had the charge of the workmen, consisted of, as we found, one old iron twenty-four, three short and three long do. six pounders, neither of which I should have liked to superintend the scaling of. They lay, in a half-mounted state, in the remotest part of the ruined convent. This position might be rendered one of the strongest, and might serve also to overawe the town in case of any revolutionary movement on the part of the inhabitants. The view from these heights is most splendid. About midway between La Popa and the walls of Xexemeni stands the castle of San Felipe, on a rocky eminence of 150 feet. This was formerly a place of great strength, as the attack of Admiral Vernon and Gen. Wentworth in 1739 fully attest; but, at present, partly through neglect and partly from the ruinous effects of an earthquake, could not be much depended on. Here, also, the natives had lately been busy in patching up the dilapidated walls; there are but few guns mounted, and not a hundred of them in the fortress. The taking of this once stronghold would be but child's play under existing circumstances.

The Xexemeni is entered by a bridge, which leads to the guarded entrance beneath the walls; but there is not one gun here on the land side; nothing is to be seen but vacant ports and naked walls. A single sentinel stood at the gate. Within these suburbs is held the principal market, and boats laden with the produce of the country can approach close to the spot where it is held, by means of a very fine quay. The city proper is connected also by a bridge, and the gate is guarded by two doughty sentinels, who oblige all passengers to take one side of the way in entering and another in going out, thus avoiding much confusion.

The walls of the ramparts encircling the town are about fourteen feet high, and built in the most substantial manner, having the platforms thickly coated with a mixture of pebbles and cement. Wherever any parts of the foundations are thought to have been too much exposed, they are secured by breakwaters. Bastions, demi-bastions, curtains, and, in short, every particular connected with one of the best works of defence, are here laid down upon the most advantageous as well as extensive plan; but here the strength and beauty of the defences must rest; for as to men and munitions of war to match, you must not look for them among the present degenerate race. In the first place, then, it is a fact too well known to be disputed, that, at the time of closing the gates in the first vengeful flurry of the English quarrel, there were not provisions enough in the city for over one month! There were somewhere about eight or nine hundred troops, the majority of whom had been entrapped in the surrounding country and put on instant duty, as raw and awkward as an inexperienced negro or Indian may easily be supposed to be on the first handling of a musket or training of a cannon. In number they were scarcely sufficient to have kept up a line of sentries along the walls!

The few pieces of cannon that were in a serviceable condition, and all that now remain out of the once formidable array which bristled every point of her extended walls, had been shifted to the side next the sea. Some of these were beautiful French and Spanish pieces in bronze; long eighteen and twenty-four pounders, but wretchedly mounted; and the climax of absurdity was, that the balls, which were a part of the great loan from England in 1824 or '25, and intended for English calibre, were not at all suited to the guns. When to this it is added that the powder in the magazines was

eight years old, it is evident that cracking work must have been made of it when once set agoing!!

Lima, Mexico, and Carthagena are the only three cities of Spanish America where regular sessions of the Inquisition were held. The palace of this fearful institution is located in the great square, and occupies one entire side of it. The exterior presents nothing to the eye, at present, calculated to recall the terrific purposes for which it was originally appropriated. It is a plain, neat, and very substantial building of two stories. It has been useful in several capacities since the decline of the holy order, having been made to serve, during the revolutionary struggles, the purposes of a prison and of public offices. At one time it was occupied by an English merchant as a warehouse, &c. At present it is in possession of a wealthy Italian and his family, who have furnished up the central part of the building in very good style, while he has also some merchandise in one part of the building. This man came to Carthagena some years since very poor, and rose to affluence by trade.

I visited the place in company with a young English friend, who was acquainted with the Italian, and we were received very courteously, although it was rather laughable to find the occupant engaged in sewing bags together. Probably he was thus employed from a desire to bring back the reminiscences of those by-gone days when he was upon the first step of the ladder which had raised him to what he at present is; nothing like early habits. The whole interior of the place has been so altered and remodelled that it is impossible to form any correct idea of the former plan of the rooms. Many of the doors and passages have been walled up, and others opened to suit better the convenience of the late tenants. A number of subterraneous passages, communicating with the principal

churches in the city, have been also closed, while many of the intelligent of the inhabitants are *now* loath to acknowledge that any such ever existed, or to enter into any conversation on the subject, as tending to reflect no credit upon their church.

The room which still retains most of its originality is the great hall of the dread tribunal itself. There, upon the mosaic pavement, may still be seen the exact outlines where were fixed the seats and desks of the inquisitors.

The secretary's office is also just as it was, and is on the ground floor; but the great hall is on the second. We entered a small square room in the back of the building, left entirely empty ever since the cold-blooded massacre of 400 Spanish prisoners, here confined, by the Patriots, in retaliation for some of the excesses committed by the command of that bloodthirsty savage, Murillo. The walls are much discoloured in places near the floor by stains of a brownish colour, which are asserted to have been produced by the blood that was so inhumanly shed on this occasion. It certainly has every appearance of being so. I saw distinctly many places in these walls where entrances had been skilfully closed up. They had been all arched, and were very narrow. Many close gratings are also inserted high up in these entrances, and everything shows it to have been a place of great strength and safety. The only wonder to me is why the church of the present day does not buy up, and then level down with the ground, all such telltale mementoes of her former anti-Chiristian spirit, since leaving them thus standing entire, as does this building, cannot certainly tend to diminish that feeling of deep, loathing abhorrence with which the more liberal spirit of the age now teaches even those of her own people to look upon these remembrancers of the fearful power she once possessed.

Although men sit secure under the present happier government, it does not necessarily follow that a wide spirit of inquiry is not going forward, searching into first principles, and investigating whether there does not still exist in this church the same spirit which first called into being the relentless power of the blood-stained Inquisition, only awaiting a favourable opportunity of reasserting her supreme power over the lives, the consciences, and property of all! Let these look well, then, that the scotched serpent do not yet again enter her former iniquitious den, causing these halls, and cells, and walled-up passages once more to re-echo with the groanings of anguish, and food anew be found for the worst passions of the human heart! In passing out, I observed the figures 1770 chiselled over the great staircase; too late, methought, to have completed a work only worthy the darkest days of paganism.

A few remarks here, and I have done with my New-Grenada journal.

A traveller like myself, after leaving a foreign shore on which he has been sojourning, and returning to his own home, when he once more is quietly seated down amid all its endearments, finds his mind in a far better condition, as he looks back upon the past, to sum up all the *pros* and *cons* of each matter under consideration.

The unaccustomed sights, the vexatious occurrences, and endless perplexities undergone in a course of travel like this, sometimes produces an irritation of feeling, which not unfrequently finds its way into his works, compiled from over-hasty sketches taken on the spot. But when I now look back, leisurely comparing one feature with another, and making the utmost allowance for their most glaring defects, I assert my inability to see even a remote prospect of this republic ever becoming

what the fertility of her soil, the endless variety of her delicious climate, and the great natural inducements for men of science and naturalists to visit her shores, might otherwise make her.

First let us look at the state of her commerce, that greatest of all keys to the wealth and well-being of an infant people. The majority in the elective franchise are from among the interior provinces, wherein the very heart and strength of the government lies. These are shut out from *almost* every direct advantage and communication with the foreign trade of the coast by the impassable state of travel, and they are protected by an exorbitant tariff in the exclusive demands made for their own wretched productions. All these, through the most consummate ignorance in regard to their best interests in the matter, are constantly opposed to any measure which might have the tendency to enlarge their foreign trade, while it is for the advantage of a narrow, selfish policy, both in church and state, to prevent any change for the better whatever. And small indeed is the prospect of improvement, and feeble the ray of light which has sprung up during these latter days for the poor, degraded classes in New-Grenada! The race who succeeded the old Spaniards pursue to this day the same stupid policy in governing as their predecessors, who ever thought it best to close fast every avenue to trade with foreign countries, and are possessed of all their narrow views and obstinate prejudices, without retaining the smallest trait of that deep sense of honour and good faith for which, even now, the few Chapitones or old Spaniards at present remaining in the country are so remarkable. As foreign traders will tell you here, "a Chapitone's word is better than a Columbian's bond." Thus the very brightest feature in commercial transactions, viz., good faith, is want-

ing; and, consequently, national and individual credit abroad can never rise to any great extent without it.

The government monopoly of salt and tobacco is also a grievous drawback to a rising agricultural spirit among the people; and there is no prospect at present of its being removed, as the government is deeply in debt, and this constitutes her main resource, according to their narrow views, for paying up the interest on her loans; whereas, were the duties lowered to a proper standard, and present restrictions on emigration, &c., removed, she would find in her customs and increased trade alone a sufficiency in her revenue for every purpose, and an end would at once be put to much of the smuggling now going actively forward.

The naturally rough face of the whole country is another great drawback, which perhaps neither Yankee ingenuity nor British enterprise could readily overcome; how much less, then, a people sluggish as these. With one continued succession of rugged mountains intersecting it on all sides, and crossed by streams and torrents which, during the rainy season, bear down all before them, and in summer become mere dry beds, good travel, by either land or water in the more hilly districts, is thus prevented.

The great Magdalena seems to be best formed by Nature to be the grand doorway to the interior; and yet the navigation of this, even by the best conducted steam-power, must ever be connected with much risk and delay; nor can any boats run during the whole season which draw over eighteen or twenty inches water, while the extreme narrowing of the channels during the dry months would prevent their taking freight-boats in tow.*

* It is said the Señor Montoya is to have two iron boats, like those which run on the Clyde, in Scotland, running on the river this

The restrictions laid upon emigrants who may wish to become actual settlers, and bring *with* them not only immense capital, but such a fund of morals and industry as would, in time, work out mighty advantages to the country, are far too great, both in a moral and physical point of view, to induce many to make the experiment. One must pay a tenth of all his produce to the Catholic hierarchy, who, in return, deny to the Protestant the freedom of listening to his own pastor, and oblige *him*, moreover, to pay all due deference and homage to the senseless fooleries daily paraded before their doors, while the general feeling of the people partakes of all the extreme bitterness that characterized the darker ages of the church; and the rabble opinion is, that to cheat and abuse a Protestant, who is ever considered a condemned person, is at all times commendable.

As to morals, the general filthy ways and habits of the people throughout, and the fearful consequences of bringing up a family in this second Sodom, is full enough, in itself, to deter even the strongest worshipper of mammon from taking up his abode there and treading such polluted ground.

To the philosopher or traveller who may wish to visit some of Nature's most sublime and singular works, the tediousness and fatigue of travelling would render their tour a most Herculean undertaking. From the moment he steps from on board the ship which conveys him to these shores until his return, he will find both mind and body harassed by cares and vexatious mishaps brought upon him through the extreme brutality and designing knavery of the people whom he must necessarily encounter; nor can any prudence or foresight of his avert the evil.

winter of 1836; yet still their aptness for the purpose intended remains to be tested.

In conclusion, I would here remark to any of my countrymen, or to others who may entertain a wish either to traffic, settle in, or visit any of these South American states, of which so very little, saving their geographical position, is known, not to be misled in any matter concerning them by any public statements they may meet with, which have for their end and aim the gratification of some selfish purpose of the writer himself; but let them, through means of some commercial house in their own country, obtain the name and address of a countryman then residing in the place to which they wish to go; let them write to this person, and state openly and candidly their views and wishes; and, my life upon it! if he has one particle of honour or virtue in his disposition, he would not, either by silence or otherwise, allow them to be misinformed on a subject which might involve perhaps life, property, or morals if pursued.

Sunday, 26th of February. Got all snug on board the brig, and were under weigh at half past four P. M. Dropped down to Boca Chica, where we again came to anchor, intending to take a fair start on the following day. I accompanied the captain on shore to the little village, where he went to deliver up his clearance papers to the commandant of the fort, whom we found dressed like a fisherman, in a round jacket and trousers of coarse stuff. Bought two young kids and took them on board; but scarcely had they touched the deck when, a seaman having cut the cord which tied their legs, one of them jumped overboard, and it was considered useless to look for it, as the night was dark and windy.

27th. At a quarter to six A. M. we passed the fort of Boca Chica, with a fair but light wind, and with joyful feelings, too! for, after a voyage up the Magdalena in a dirty champan or bonga, one made

to sea in a well-stored ship appears to be the very acme of felicity, even independent of the thought of one's face being set homeward.

We had rough weather crossing the Caribbean Sea, and both wind and weather were very variable during the whole voyage.

On the 13th of March we shipped two or three heavy seas, which, entering the cabin, saturated everything. Approaching the coast of the *United States*, all the passengers suffered much from the cold.

On the 18th we took on board a pilot, and landed in New-York about noon of the same day, having been absent, in all, about sixteen months.

APPENDIX.

DISTANCES OF THE PRINCIPAL PLACES ON THE ROUTE FROM CARTHAGENA TO BOGOTA.

Carthagena	Leagues.
To Turbaco	4
" Arjona	3
" Mahates	6
" Santa Cruz Estate	3
" Arroyohondo	4
" Barranca Nueva	4
To the River	24
" El Yucal	2
" Teneriffe	8
" Sambrano	4
" Boca de Vijuagual	3
" Boca de San Pedro	1
" Tacamocho	4
" Pinto	4
" Santana	5
" San Fernando	1
" San Simon	2
" Mompox	2
" La Margarita	4
" Chilloa	3
" Boca de Lobo	7
" El Peñon	4
" Los dos Caños	7
" San Pedro	3
" Regidor	3
" Morales	8
" Badillo	8
Forward	107

Leagues forward	107
To San Pablo	14
" Cantagallo	6
" El Rompedero	12
" Presidio	7
" San Bartolome	12
" La Garrapata	8
" La Angostura	8
" Naré	2
" Brazuela del Tigre	5
" Perales	9
" Buena Vista	5
" Hierro Arriva	6
" Guarumo	7
" El Palenquero	3
" Yucalito	6
" La Garcera	6
" Las Vueltas de La Madre de Dios	2
" El Pretel	4
" La Playa de Honda	4
Whole length of river travel 209 leagues.	
To El Alto de Sarjento	3
" Guaduas	2
" Villeta	3
" El Acerradero	5
" Facutativa	3
" Bogotá	8
Total	257

THE END.